

Victims of China stocks killer get awards, money

BEIJING (AP) — The first award ceremony for victims of the 1992-1993 China stock market crash was held here Tuesday. The ceremony was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The award was given to the victims of the crash, who lost their savings in the stock market. The award was given to the victims of the crash, who lost their savings in the stock market. The award was given to the victims of the crash, who lost their savings in the stock market.

Austrian priests to flout Vatican over communion

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian priests are planning to flout the Vatican's ban on communion for homosexuals, a move that could lead to a schism in the Catholic Church. The priests are planning to flout the Vatican's ban on communion for homosexuals, a move that could lead to a schism in the Catholic Church. The priests are planning to flout the Vatican's ban on communion for homosexuals, a move that could lead to a schism in the Catholic Church.

U.K. MP leaves wife after affair exposed

LONDON (AP) — A British Member of Parliament has left his wife after an affair was exposed. The MP is a member of the House of Commons. The MP is a member of the House of Commons. The MP is a member of the House of Commons.

Ex-minister sues minister in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — A former Kuwaiti minister has filed a lawsuit against the current minister. The lawsuit is filed in a Kuwaiti court. The lawsuit is filed in a Kuwaiti court. The lawsuit is filed in a Kuwaiti court.

GCC to upgrade desalination capacity

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) six member states, already pumping more than 50 per cent of the world's supply of desalinated water, plan to upgrade their capacities by the turn of the century, an official said Tuesday. "GCC represents slightly over 56 per cent of the world's water desalination capacity, and that will be increased to 61 per cent," said Mohammed Al Sofi, vice-president of the Bahrain-based Water Sciences and Technology Association in GCC countries and the expansion of the 42 existing ones. Mr. Sofi spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the second Gulf water conference which ended Tuesday. Some 350 experts took part in the gathering which focused on water conservation in one of the most arid regions of the world. Mr. Sofi said that one plant in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, accounts for 10 per cent of the global capacity, producing up to one million cubic metres a day. "By the end of the decade there will be three plants with comparable capacity to Jubail," Mr. Sofi said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily

جوردان تايمز يومية سبيلتة

عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

By the Jordan Press Foundation



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Jordan restates offer to help PNA

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Mohammad Spour on Tuesday expressed his ministry's willingness to offer every possible assistance to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in social development fields. At a meeting here with the director of the PNA's Social Affairs Department Intisar Al Wazir, Dr. Spour said the ministry was ready to help the PNA through offering expertise in the fields of the handicapped, special education, family, social defence, charity societies and combating crime and poverty. Ms. Wazir said social problems resulting from decades of Israeli occupation need a lot of efforts to be addressed, stressing that the PNA was in need of assistance from Jordan. The Palestinian official stressed the need to boost and bolster Jordanian-Palestinian relations, affirming that the relationship was the cornerstone in any regional relationship.

Spanish royal couple due here Nov. 11

AMMAN (Petra) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain will pay a three-day state visit to Jordan from Nov. 11-Nov. 13, a communiqué issued by the Royal Court said Tuesday. The communiqué said the visit comes in response to an invitation extended to them by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Khalifeh named envoy to S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday appointed Hani Khalifeh as Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Before this appointment, Mr. Khalifeh was Jordan's ambassador to Canada.

League criticises Hebron mosque curbs

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League on Tuesday criticised security measures introduced by Israel at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and urged the world community to intervene. The 22-member league said in a statement that the shrine forced Muslim worshippers to pass through too many security checks, "virtually turning it into a military camp." It urged international organisations to intervene to stop "these provocative measures, which transgress on places with spiritual values to the faithful." The league said tension over the security would undermine the Middle East peace process.

Rabin to visit U.S. next week

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will begin next Tuesday a week-long visit to the United States where he will hold talks on Middle East peace with President Bill Clinton, officials said. Mr. Rabin, who is also to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is slated to return on Nov. 22. Mr. Clinton met Mr. Rabin on Oct. 27 after talks in Damascus where he said "progress" was made. Israel radio reported that Mr. Christopher would on Nov. 20 launch his sixth Middle East shuttle this year in a bid to narrow the gap between Israel and Syria.

Argentine lawmaker seeks report on blast

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A high-profile opposition lawmaker Tuesday called on the government to make public the results of its probe into the July 18 bomb blast that killed 95 people at a Jewish association headquarters. "More than three months have passed since one of the worst terrorist attacks in Argentine history and there are no indications that the ongoing investigation has produced any positive results," said centre-left deputy and presidential hopeful Carlos Alvarez. In a resolution introduced in congress, Mr. Alvarez asked the government to provide details on intelligence organisations participating in the probe, and on border control measures taken since the attack. Last week, President Carlos Menem pledged to create an "elite corps" of investigators to continue the inquiry into the bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building.

Russia announces Iraqi recognition of Kuwait

Kozyrev due in Baghdad to follow up; U.S. says Iraqi move not enough

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia announced Tuesday that Iraq had recognised the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait as ordered by the United Nations, and dispatched the Russian foreign minister to Baghdad to finalise arrangements. The U.S. said immediately Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, as reported by Russia, was not enough to achieve a lifting of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad. "Border recognition would meet only one of a number of requirements to which Iraq has not complied, and would not in itself establish Iraq's peaceful intentions which were called into question by its provocation in October," said State Department spokesman David Johnson. "Our policy regarding Iraq and U.N. Security Council sanctions remains that Iraq must comply fully with all the relevant Security Council resolutions," and a recognition of Kuwait alone did not meet this requirement, Mr. Johnson said. "We would oppose any U.N. Security Council action which might lead Iraq to conclude that the Security Council might consider modifying the sanctions before Iraq has met fully its obligations," he added. Other conditions set by the U.N. Security Council for lifting of sanctions against Iraq following the Gulf war include the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev would travel shortly to Baghdad to finalise arrangements. The decision still has to be confirmed by the Iraqi parliament, the Revolutionary Command Council and ruling Baath Party. Mr. Kozyrev said last month during a trip to the region that he had obtained assurances that Iraq would recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and its borders. That mission to Baghdad came amid a standoff between U.S. and Iraqi forces after Iraq massed thousands of troops near the border, arousing fears of a repeat of the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait that led to the Gulf war. Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered Mr. Kozyrev to leave shortly for Baghdad to "take part in completing the appropriate constitutional procedures" concerned with recognising the emirate, the ministry statement said. Interfax news agency said Mr. Kozyrev would leave for Baghdad Wednesday on a three-day visit. The announcement followed talks in Moscow between Mr. Kozyrev and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. The foreign ministry said Mr. Aziz gave Mr. Kozyrev a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein addressed to Mr. Yeltsin containing "the recognition by Iraq of the sovereignty of Kuwait and its borders, conforming with Resolution 833." ITAR-TASS news agency, quoting "informed sources," said Iraq might officially recognise Kuwait "in the next few days." Moscow has been pressing for the Security Council to give a pledge that it will lift within six months the oil embargo imposed on Iraq once Baghdad recognises Kuwait's sovereignty and

(Continued on page 7)

Israel to ease siege, speed up self-rule

EREZ CROSSING (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday promised Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to ease the closure of the Gaza Strip and speed up talks on expanding autonomy in the West Bank. The moves appeared aimed at bolstering Mr. Arafat at a time when he is losing ground to militants opposed to the peace process. There will also be an acceleration in the so-called "early empowerment." Palestinians will take control of tourism, welfare, taxation and health in the West Bank by the end of the month, Mr. Rabin said after a 90-minute meeting at the Erez Crossing which links the autonomous Gaza Strip with Israel. Israel will also allow 10,000 more Palestinian workers into Israel, easing a closure imposed three weeks ago after a bus bombing by Islamic militants killed 22 in Tel Aviv. Some 13,000 Palestinians are presently allowed to work in Israel. Mr. Arafat thanked Mr. Rabin for a "positive and fruitful meeting" adding that he hoped "in this atmosphere we will follow up to implement what we agreed upon." He said Israel and the Palestinians needed to "overcome all these obstacles which some elements are putting in our way, and we are confident we will be able to do this." In their seventh meeting since an ice-breaking handshake on the White House lawn in September 1993, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat were trying to resolve disputes that have stalled stage two of the self-rule agreement — a troop pullback from the West Bank and Palestinian general elections. Mr. Rabin's key concession appeared to be the agreement to simultaneously negotiate the elections as well as the army's West Bank redeployment and the security of 120,000 settlers there. "The discussions will be comprehensive, all the issues that need to be solved to move to the next stage," Mr. Rabin said. Mr. Rabin said security issues were raised in the meeting Tuesday but would give no details. Since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last May, the Palestinians have been given charge only of education on the West Bank. Israel had insisted that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) first raise funds to run the departments now under army control. "We started with education and the four other spheres were agreed but there was a need to finance," Mr. Rabin said. The finance would be ready before December, he said, and "as a result we will continue on the 15th of this month with tourism and welfare, and by the end of the month with health and taxation." In a U-turn, Mr. Rabin said negotiations on election to a Palestinian autonomy council and the redeployment outside built-up Arab areas on the West Bank would start soon. "Two weeks from now we will enter negotiations on elections, redeployment, security to Israelis and settlers, external security, legal reviews and other issues," he said. "I don't know how long these negotiations will take," Mr. Rabin admitted. He had previously rejected Palestinian demands to

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MILITARY ELECTRONICS: His Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior army officers (Armed Forces photo)

Dead Sea meeting studies confidence-building moves

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Confidence-building measures among the countries of the Middle East, including prior notification of army exercises and joint rescue efforts in sea and on land, are the focus of a two-day meeting of the main members of the multilateral working group of arms control that opened at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on Monday. A concrete proposal expected to be studied by the meeting, attended by 22 countries including Jordan and Israel, is for the establishment of a "conflict-prevention and regional security centre" in the Middle East. The issue of eliminating the presence of weapons of mass destruction in the region was not expected to be taken up during this meeting, described as "operative basket" of controlling proliferation of arms among the countries. Addressing the opening session, Jordan's chief delegate Abdullah Touqan said the Kingdom believed that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26 "will be pivotal towards the establishment of a broad structural framework of security and cooperation in the Middle East region, as well as to the establishment of institutes and mechanisms to form a link with the global security environment." "Military and non-military components can be integrated into a comprehensive security regime that can organise response to possible sources of conflict and deter any force of aggression," he said. The topics to be discussed in this intersectoral operational basket of the arms control and regional security working group, such as search and rescue for humanitarian purposes, to confidence and security building measures between militaries, in the exchange of information, pre-notifications of military exercises and activities, and the establishment of

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Clinton urges progress on Syrian, Lebanese tracks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton called for progress in Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel in a letter he sent Tuesday to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, officials said. Mr. Clinton also spoke of the progress achieved between Jordan and Israel, which signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 ending 46 years of hostilities, said U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ronald Schlycher who delivered the letter. The U.S. president briefed Mr. Hrawi on his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, the day after Mr. Clinton witnessed the signing ceremony on the Jordanian-Israeli border. Mr. Clinton also expressed his country's interest in the efforts of the Lebanese government to forge ahead with an ambitious multi-billion-dollar post-war reconstruction programme and voiced hope for Lebanon's future, Mr. Schlycher said. The U.S. diplomat also gave Mr. Hrawi a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he outlined his latest peace missions to the region. Mr. Christopher is set to return to the Middle East later this month to try to revive stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said on Monday direct negotiations with Israel could resume in Washington after Mr. Christopher's visit. Direct negotiations between Syria, Lebanon and Israel have been suspended since February, following the massacre of more than 30 Palestinians in Hebron mosque by an Israeli settler. Mr. Clinton's message to Mr. Hrawi followed reports by the Lebanese media that Lebanese government leaders were offended by Mr. Clinton's decision to exclude Lebanon from his first-ever trip to the Middle East. Mr. Schlycher said: "The president hopes progress will be achieved in the coming few months on the Syrian track and the Lebanese too." A Syrian government-run newspaper warned Tuesday that Israel's idea of establishing a "new order" in the Middle East poses dangers for Arabs. "This ... is no more than a new kind of colonisation that aims to infiltrate Arab society through the economy, politics and technology," the Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial. The newspaper charged that Israel "seeks in practical ways to cancel the Arab identity of the Middle East region and down the Arabs in new problems and bloody civil wars." "Israel also wants to drain the Arabs' wealth to weaken them to the extent whereby it can control their potential and wealth," Tishrin declared. Syria boycotted the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 Middle East economic summit in Casablanca, Morocco and has sharply denounced Arab leaders for their "rush" to do business with the Israelis before a comprehensive peace settlement has been achieved.

Palestinians feel left on their own, ponder Jordanian role

By Lamis K. Andoni
The following is the first of two articles looking into Palestinian perceptions of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the light of the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The writer has just returned from a working visit to Gaza and the occupied territories.

PALESTINIANS in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are alarmed by how the growing rift between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership is affecting their daily lives and future. Most recognise that a future settlement will involve some sort of a bond, or at least an association with Jordan. Furthermore, the very details of their daily lives are already tied to Jordan in one way or another, and the rift is further complicating already intertwined ties. They feel that ordinary people, who are already suffocated by the Israeli occupation, invariably end up paying the price for the fluctuation of Jordanian-Palestinian relations. For example, one of the most important questions on people's minds concerns the Jordanian passports. What will West Bankers do and how will they manage if Jordan stopped issuing the two-year passports, which have been serving as mostly travel documents rather than citizenship certificates since the 1988 Jordanian severing of administrative ties with the West Bank. But there is also the realisation that Palestinians cannot expect to have everything; basically asserting "independence from Jordan" — partly to make Israel come to terms with Palestinian sovereignty — without sacrificing the benefits of existing dependence on Amman. Yet this situation leaves the Palestinians at the mercy of Israeli occupation and restrictions especially that the interim period, as agreed upon in the Oslo accords between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has neither freed them from the yoke of Israeli rule nor seems to promise an inevitable freedom down the road of peace talks. Palestinian newspapers, particularly Al Quds, which is not free from official Palestinian influence, publish brief reports about Jordan's ban on the entry of Palestinian activists or officials or any act that is viewed as restricting or harassing Palestinians crossing into Jordan. Fears are frequently expressed by ordinary Palestinians that their movement might be restricted by Jordan or even being interrogated by Jordanian security forces — regardless of evidence of such acts on behalf of Jordanian government departments but nevertheless an important indication of growing anxiety and uncertainty. There is also a widespread feeling that the Arabs have left the Palestinians to Israel's mercy and to fend for themselves. Jordan, due to the geographic proximity and long intertwined political, economic and social relations, is always seen as a barometer for the relationship with the Arab World. Thus, on the day of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty reactions varied. Yet they all carried the conclusion that the Palestinians were left on their own to their own fate. The reactions, however, varied over who to blame or how to apportion the blame. In most cases, people would blame the Palestinian leadership for signing a separate agreement with Israel and paving the way for, if not compelling other governments to follow suit. Others blame the poor performance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that resulted in the failure of making real changes in the living conditions or towards easing the Israeli occupation. But in all cases, regardless of the level of support or opposition to the Palestinian authority, there is a lingering feeling that the Palestinians are alone. "We are left behind," the Arabs no longer care, and "why should the Israelis give us anything now that normalisation has started with the Arab World," are comments that one hears regularly across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or even in Arab towns and villages in Israel. A growing number of Palestinians are convinced that Jordan will play a major if not a crucial role in determining their future. The apparent contradiction between this conclusion and the feeling of abandonment fades when one tries to understand the underlying logic and to a large extent an emerging Palestinian thinking. According to this thinking, while Palestinians are left on their own to struggle to end the Israeli occupation, their expected failure under the prevailing circumstances or the failure of their leadership will lead to the reassertion of Jordan's role. This conclusion, shared by many, is not necessarily a reaction to what Palestinians perceive as Jordanian plans or intentions. Based on interviews, the conclusion reflects disillusionment in the peace process, at least on the Palestinian track, and an overwhelming feeling that the Palesti-

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Cambodian rebels use forced labour to prepare for fighting

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas are abducting villagers and forcing them to build roads to transport material for an expected surge in fighting in northern Cambodia, officials said Tuesday.

Deputy Chief of Staff Nhiek Bunhachay and Siem Reap police chief Chea Sopha told AFP that more than 200 villagers had been taken from their homes in recent weeks and forced to build roads and carrying material from guerrillas.

They were responding to a report in the Cambodia Daily Tuesday, quoting Siem Reap provincial officials, that more than 400 had been abducted to work for the Khmer Rouge ahead of an anticipated dry season offensive.

Cheap Sopha, who said villagers were used "as slaves," added that he expected the Khmer Rouge to attack Chi Krong district of Siem Reap province within the next two days.

"I just received informa-

tion today that the Khmer Rouge have brought 10 tractors of ammunition for DK-82 mortars and many propelled grenades and AK-47 ammunition to the commune of Kok Thlok of Chi Krong district," Chea Sopha said.

Nhiek Bunhachay said the government had sent fresh troops into the area, although his information was that only one tractor of ammunition had been sent in.

The police chief stressed that increased guerrilla activity should not affect tourism at the Angkor Temple site in Siem Reap province, which was at least 70 kilometres away.

General Ung Ourn, military operations commander for the province, told the Cambodia Daily that the 80-kilometres (50-mile) road under construction between Anlong Veng and Varin would speed up deliveries of ammunition and other material to the guerrillas.

"There are no government troops in the north," the

general was quoted as saying. "They have given up protecting the area because it is hard to reach and thick forests blanket the region."

Meanwhile outgoing Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivudh lashed out Tuesday at corrupt high-ranking military officials and former Communist Party members who were undermining his authority.

Speaking to reporters after a ceremony where he handed the seal of office to incoming Foreign Minister Ung Huto, Prince Sirivudh complained that corrupt elements in the upper echelons of the armed forces prevented him from implementing a policy to protect Cambodia's national integrity.

"If your marine officers provide illegal licences to Thais to fish in our country, how can the poor foreign minister react to this? They are supposed to protect the national interest but at the same time they do business with Thai fishermen, they

play a double game," he said, adding that the military was also involved in smuggling and illegal logging.

Another major reason for his resignation was a lack of respect for the authority of his ministry, said the prince, who remains a parliament member and general secretary of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party.

Prince Sirivudh said many members of the former Communist Cambodia People's Party "still support the old style in the Communist and Socialist form and just ignore the Foreign Ministry."

Prince Sirivudh resigned after his friend and close confidant, the outspoken Finance Minister Sam Rainsy, was sacked in a recent cabinet reshuffle.

Asked about reports that he had made the move for "health reasons," the prince replied: "Yes, I resigned for health reasons, but if you ask me what my sickness is, that is another story."



Cambodian Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh (right) introduces new foreign minister Ung Huto (left) after Prince Norodom Sirivudh (centre) resigned. Prince Sirivudh, widely respected by the diplomatic community, resigned when his ally Sam Rainsy, the former finance minister, was sacked and lambasted corrupt Cambodian officials for obstructing his job as foreign minister (AFP photo)

Greek police arrest plane hijacker

SALONIKA, Greece (AFP) — Police Tuesday arrested a hijacker who forced a Greek Olympic Airways plane to land at this northern Greek town and then freed the passengers and crew.

The arrest of the Greek hijacker was broadcast live on national television. The 68 Greek and German passengers and the crew of eight had earlier left the aircraft unharm-

ed. Police surrounded the air-

liner, which was parked in an isolated area after it was forced down by a gunman who threatened the pilot as he flew above the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Flight 182 was a regular connection from Düsseldorf in Germany to Athens via Salonika.

Earlier, police said forces from Greece's special anti-terrorist unit Ekav were on their way to the airport and

extra security was put in place around the Athens Helenikon Airport.

First reports said that an armed man threatened the pilot "just after Belgrade."

Greek passenger Michalis Salagoudis said the passengers "had no inkling that it was a hijacking."

"The pilot only told us that the plane was late because of bad weather and an air traffic jam," he said.

India accuses Pakistan over kidnap

LONDON (R) — The head of India's diplomatic mission to Britain Monday accused Pakistani intelligence of "active connivance" in the recent kidnapping near Delhi of four Western tourists.

But Pakistani diplomats denied this and called the accusations part of a "continuing disinformation campaign launched by the Indian government."

Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh, a 20-year-old Briton, is currently under arrest for holding three Britons and an American. He is alleged to have held the Britons at gunpoint, tethering them to a stake and threatening to behead them one by one.

Krishna Rajan, India's High Commissioner in London, told a news conference: "It was not only well within the knowledge of Pakistan, it could not be done without

their active connivance." He said the kidnapping, which two Indian policemen died trying to end, was ordered by the Islamic fundamentalist organisation Harkat-ul-Ansar (HUA).

Mr. Rajan said Mr. Ahmad Omar had cooperated with the Indian authorities since his arrest. They believed he had been recruited in Britain by an Islamic organisation called Convoy of Mercy and sent to Bosnia.

There he met his accomplice in the kidnapping, Abdul Rauf of HUA, and was persuaded to go first to Pakistan and then to a terrorist training school in the Afghan town of Khost before being sent to Delhi with a mission to kidnap Westerners.

"HUA functions under the

tutelage of, and in close cooperation with, the intelligence services of Pakistan," Mr. Rajan said.

The three Britons, Paul Ridout, Myles Croston and Rhys Partridge, were taken hostage in Saharanpur, a town 150 kilometres north of Delhi. American Bela Nuss was also captured but was held separately.

Mr. Rajan's accusations elicited an angry reply from the Pakistan High Commission in London.

"It is high time the Indian government stops misleading international public opinion," it said in a statement. "The fact is that the Indian authorities are trying to manufacture all kinds of incidents in order to malign the popular struggle of the Kashmiri people and involve Pakistan's name in such cases."

Angolan rebels unlikely to sign peace pact

LISBON (R) — UNITA rebels said Tuesday they were unlikely to sign a peace accord with the Angolan government next week because of an assault by Angolan government troops on their stronghold Huambo.

UNITA Commander Paulo Lukumba Gato told Portuguese TSF Radio from Huambo that the city was under heavy artillery fire.

"This battle is a turning point," he said. "Either we go decisively for peace or we begin a new phase of the war."

Asked if he now ruled out signing a new peace accord in the Lusaka capital Lusaka on Nov. 15, he replied: "I think so."

UNITA will definitely not attend a planned meeting of rival military commanders in Lusaka Thursday, he added.

The peace accord, initialled last week after 11 months of tortuous negotiations, provides for a formal ceasefire to take effect 48 hours after Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi sign the agreement.

Government media said Tuesday the military commanders would meet in Lusaka this week. It also said government forces had strategic control of Huambo, the central highlands city where Mr. Savimbi has his headquarters, which they have been attacking for two weeks.

Commander Lukumba Gato said government forces had not entered the city but were shelling it hard.

"The MPLA (government) is now 10 kilometres away and the city is red hot with artillery fire," he told TSF Radio.

"A climate of peace and a cessation of hostilities would have been necessary to allow the two sides to advance securely towards the signing of the protocol on the 15th of this month," he said.

Most of the speakers voiced anger at the State Department for granting Mr. Zhirinovsky an entry visa to the United States, which they said constituted a privilege, not a right.

The decision to grant the outspoken anti-Semite a visa was based on respect for freedom of speech and did not constitute an endorsement of his opinions, the State Department said last week.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, leader of the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, the second-biggest grouping in

Tiger attack mars Sri Lanka's elections

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka Navy thwarted a suicide bomb attack by Tamil guerrillas in the north of the country on the eve of Wednesday's election to determine which of two political widows will be the country's new president.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) lost seven fighters in a failed bid to blow up a naval landing craft in Vettikalmi region Tuesday, but embarrassed the government which initiated talks with the rebels.

Military officials said security forces destroyed three LTTE boats and killed the seven Tigers, while four sailors were wounded in a prolonged pre-dawn firefight in choppy seas.

But the attack compounded the problems of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, who suffered a setback after the LTTE's

alleged assassination of her main rival, Gani Dinanayake, which forced his widow Srimala into the fight for the presidency, analysts said.

The election, which has now become essentially a battle between the widows, is set to determine not only Sri Lanka's future leader but could possibly bring the curtains down on a much maligned constitution that centralises power.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who led her People's Alliance (PA) to victory in parliamentary polls in August, is now running for her presidency and countered her opponent's tears by projecting her own widowhood.

"How much of this sympathy will be translated into votes is difficult to assess. But we have seen too many political assassinations to be moved by emotions," said veteran local journalist, Dal-

ton De Silva.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's politician husband, Vijay, was shot dead in 1988. Her mother — Sirima Bandaranaike — became the world's first woman premier in 1960 after her husband, Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, was assassinated in 1959.

The two main contenders and the four other minor candidates have all pledged to either scrap or drastically modify the 1978 constitution which gives unlimited powers to the president.

The government has repeatedly vowed to set aside the present constitution — modelled partly on the French, U.S. and British parliamentary democracy.

"She (Kumaratunga) wants to win the election not to enjoy the powers of the presidency but to scrap it. We are very clear on it," Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said.

No deeper U.S. troop cuts planned — Perry

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon does not plan deeper cuts in U.S. troops strength to meet a military budget deficit facing the armed forces, Defence Secretary William Perry said.

"No. We are not contemplating any cut in troop strength," Mr. Perry said when asked how the Pentagon will address a possible gap of up to \$40 billion between planned U.S. military spending and revenues over the next four years.

There are currently 1.6 million men and women in the shrinking U.S. Armed Forces, but Mr. Perry suggested there would be no proposal in the fiscal 1996 military budget to go below a final force of 1.45 million personnel planned for 1999.

"We have a very complex problem of putting our whole budget together and that process will be completed over the next few weeks," he told reporters at a Pentagon photo opportunity with visiting defence officials from Cambodia.

"But of the things we are considering, one of them is not a reduction in troop forces," Mr. Perry added. If no deeper troop cuts are planned, then the Pentagon would have to look at further deep cuts in arms programmes unless Congress approves higher defence spending.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that inflation projections had left the Defence Department scrambling to close a potential \$40 billion military budget gap over the next four years as it prepares the fiscal 1996 defence budget.

The 1996 budget, including a five-year projection for military spending, will be sent to Congress early next year. The Washington Post said the Pentagon was trying to eliminate half the deficit by killing or postponing arms programmes.

Defence officials told Reuters Monday that deeper cuts in military personnel beyond those already planned could endanger Pentagon strategy of being able to fight two major conflicts simultaneously.



Prince Charles of Britain wears a safety outfit during his visit to the Tsing Ma Bridge construction site. The bridge was one of the \$20.3 billion new airport projects which will be finished by mid-1997, the time Britain is to return Hong Kong to Chinese rule (AFP photo)

Charles appeals for China's 'goodwill' over Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Britain's Prince Charles, in a speech to Hong Kong business leaders, appealed Tuesday for a "vital measure of goodwill" from China as the British colony prepares for its return to Chinese sovereignty.

In an address to the British Chamber of Commerce, the Prince of Wales said he was "pleased to see how much has been accomplished" between Britain and China since they agreed on Hong Kong's July 1997 handback.

"These achievements encourage me to believe that, with goodwill and increasing close cooperation between both sides, other outstanding problems can be resolved," he said on the penultimate day of a five-day visit.

But, with Governor Chris Patten listening nearby, the prince then implied that the onus was on China, rather than Britain, to go the extra mile in assuring Hong Kong's long-term success.

"I hope very much... that this vital measure of goodwill — and the wish to see Hong Kong continue to flourish — will be found over many years in the people and government of China," he said. Earlier in the day, Prince Charles donned a blue hard hat and red safety belt to inspect Hong Kong's first sus-

pension bridge, part of the \$20.3 billion Chek Lap Kok Airport project.

He appeared to enjoy the visit so much that he did not bother to clean the mud off his brown dress shoes as he strolled into a deluxe hotel to make his 10-minute speech to about 500 people.

There, in a grand ballroom fitted with crystal chandeliers, he dined at the head table with Mr. Patten and chamber executives on smoked duck breast, seared lionhead fish with shrimp, and bitter chocolate marquis.

His measured remark about China came against the backdrop of running Sino-British feuds over Hong Kong's historic change of sovereignty, including Mr. Patten's efforts to make local elections more democratic.

In the most recent flare-up, Beijing alleged the Jardine Matheson Group — skeptical of Hong Kong's prospects after 1997 — had won a major container port development contract in return for backing Mr. Patten's reforms.

Prince Charles heaped praise on British companies for "playing a significant part" in Hong Kong's development, "which enabled this barren rock to become such a fertile field for business."

Rwandan absence overshadows Franco-African summit

BIARRITZ, France (AFP) — French and African leaders met Tuesday at the casino in this coastal resort for their annual summit, overshadowed by the absence of Rwanda, which is emerging from an ethnic bloodbath.

Several African heads of state voiced disgruntlement and astonishment at Paris's failure to invite the new authorities in the Rwandan capital Kigali, who have also demanded an explanation.

The summit opened after a breakfast for a score of French-speaking African heads of state and government. It is the last to be chaired by French President Francois Mitterrand who is due to step down next May after 14 years in power.

The agenda includes the development of democracy in Africa and the option of creating an African peacekeeping force, as well as economic issues, officials said.

In all, 26 heads of state or government and representa-

tives of nine other nations were present, including Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko, Togo's Gnassingbe Eyadema and Omar Bongo of Gabon, who are perceived as still only paying lip service to democracy after decades of personal rule.

France's stated reason for not inviting leaders of the government installed in July by the former rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) was that they had not clearly indicated they wanted to come.

French officials said it was also felt the regime had not done enough to ensure the safe return of hundreds of thousands of refugees, mainly from the Hutu majority, who have fled to neighbouring Zaire.

Late Monday, Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, a Hutu, rejected France's explanation that Rwandan officials had not asked to participate in the summit taking place Tuesday and Wednesday.

"I think strongly that if

Rwanda was not invited, it was for personal reasons," Mr. Twagiramungu said in comments carried by official Radio Rwanda and monitored by the BBC.

"Other African countries, invited to the summit, do not understand why Rwanda is absent," he said.

"Therefore France should explain" this, he added. On arriving in this southwestern French Atlantic resort on Monday, the leaders of Mali, Zaire, Burundi, Congo and Burkina Faso all said they regretted the absence of Rwanda.

"It is more decent to talk about Rwanda with the Rwandans," Mali's President Alpha Oumar Konare said.

The former Tutsi rebels have always condemned France's erstwhile close ties with the Hutu nationalists they overthrew amid the bloodletting which followed the death of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana in a suspected rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

Mr. Twagiramungu com-

plained about "contempt" shown by France, which planned to "discuss the problems of a country without giving that country an opportunity to speak."

He said that he did not believe that France had ignored Rwanda because it believed Kigali had gone over to "the Anglophone camp." The backbone of the RPF consists of English-speaking Ugandans, who once served in that country's army.

Security is tight in Biarritz, with large numbers of police and troops on hand, the airspace over the resort defended by missiles and the sea offshore closely patrolled.

Humanitarian organisations plan to hold a parallel "counter-summit" here, putting under the microscope France's African policies.

On Saturday, several hundred Basque and Breton nationalists demonstrated here against the organisation of a "neo-colonial summit in a region still colonised by France."

Sequel planned for A Fish Called Wanda

LONDON (R) — United International Pictures said Tuesday it was reuniting John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline and Michael Palin in a comedy along the lines of A Fish Called Wanda. "The new film is an equal, not a sequel," the studio quoted Cleese as saying in a statement. Cleese has co-written and is co-producing the film as well as starring in it — as he did in A Fish Called Wanda. The prolific Cleese, who burst upon the British comedy scene with the now-classic Monty Python television series, hopes to repeat the 1987 success of Wanda. That film, which grossed \$31 million in its first year, featured a bungling team of American and British thieves and an uptight English lawyer.

Virgin Mary to see off Spanish prostitutes

MADRID (R) — A giant statue of the Virgin Mary is to be erected in a Madrid park in the hope that its presence will rid the area of prostitutes. The nine-metre (30 feet) high statue was commissioned by the National Campaign for Worship, which originally wanted it to stand on the tranquil lawns of Retiro Park. But city authorities, anxious to prevent large crowds gathering in the Retiro, decided on the less salubrious Parque Del Oeste as a more fitting resting place for the Virgin. The leader of the statue campaign, Juan Bautista Sanchez said the Virgin's watchful eye could prove the goddess the Parque Del Oeste needed to cure it of its prostitution problem.

Chinese army to crack down on underage volunteers

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese army is to crack down on underage recruits who forge birth documents to join up in the hope of receiving an education and job placement on demobilisation, a report said Monday. Army regulations state a minimum age of 18 for new recruits, but the Liberation Army Daily said an increasing number of volunteers — some as young as 15 — have been using false papers to join the ranks. The trend came to light when an army court in one of China's seven military regions found that 10 per cent of military cases tried in the past year had involved underage soldiers. According to the newspaper, most of the young enlistees were abetted by their parents, who wanted their children to receive an army education. Some parents simply wanted to get rid of "problem" children, the daily said, while others saw military service as a path to better employment. Demobilised soldiers in China often receive preferential job placement.

Hundreds of stray dogs buried alive in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — A Taiwanese animal welfare crusader Sunday called for an investigation into the deaths of hundreds of stray dogs buried alive near a garbage dump outside the capital. The call came as local newspapers published pictures showing helpless dogs stepping on top of each other trying to struggle for freedom in a deep concrete shaft with a diameter of one metre (7.3) at Shulin, part of Taipei County. "It is the most inhuman and irresponsible way of dealing with the strays by local dog catchers that I have ever seen," the enraged president of the Help Save A Pet Fund, Lily Wang, told AFP. Taiwan has an estimated 1.5 million stray dogs. Ms. Wang said the dogs at Shulin were apparently dumped by local catchers in the shaft, noting that some of the animals still had wire, often used to catch strays, tied around their necks. "There are nine such shafts, and seven of them have been filled with rocks covering the top. In the rest of the shafts, we found the dogs," she said, adding most of the dogs in one open shaft had already died, while in another half were still alive. Ms. Wang said that after being informed by an animal lover Friday about the practice, which has apparently been going on for sometime, she led a group of volunteer workers to the scene, where barks and stench filled the air.

Sequel planned for A Fish Called Wanda

LONDON — The sequel to the 1983 comedy film "A Fish Called Wanda" is being planned by the producers, according to a source familiar with the project. The film, which starred Gene Wilder and Robin Williams, was a major success for the producers, who are now looking for a new project to produce.

Virgin Mary to see off Spanish prostitutes

MADRID — The Virgin Mary is to be the patron saint of a new Spanish law aimed at curbing prostitution. The law, which is being drafted by the government, will make it easier for women to leave the profession and will provide them with financial support.

Chinese army crack down on underage volunteers

BEIJING — The Chinese government has cracked down on underage volunteers who have been joining the army. The government has issued orders to local authorities to ensure that no child is recruited into the military.

test

test

Hundreds of stray dogs buried alive in Taiwan

TAIPEI — Hundreds of stray dogs were buried alive in Taiwan, according to a report. The report says that the dogs were buried in a mass grave, and that the burial was carried out by a group of people who were not identified.



Rescue workers carry away victims from the 'Sacro Monte' where five people lost their lives in a landslide following torrential rainfalls. The worst flooding this century left at least 59 people dead and caused widespread damage in Italy (AFP)

Berlusconi pledges aid for flood-ravaged north

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Tuesday his government would declare a state of emergency and national mourning after severe flooding killed 59 people and left thousands homeless in northern Italy.

Mr. Berlusconi, speaking before the start of a cabinet meeting to decide the government's response to the disaster, also pledged to immediately free 400 billion lire (\$260 million) in emergency aid for the worst-hit areas.

The prime minister, facing criticism that the government had reacted slowly, said after a briefing by civil protection authorities that Italy faced "a disastrous situation."

"Let's put the controversies aside because the time to act is now," he said. "Later we can confront the problem of blame."

More rain fell in the north-west part of the country, much of which remained covered with floodwaters and mud — which have caused an estimated \$4 billion of damage.

Streets were littered with wrecked cars and debris swept from houses and businesses. Many rivers were running several metres above their normal levels.

Hundreds of people were cut off from gas and electricity while at least a dozen communities in the worst-hit region of Piedmont were completely isolated because of blocked roads.

Pope John Paul sent his condolences to the flood victims in telegrams to the Archbishops of Turin and nearby Asti, which was also badly affected by the floods.

Thousands of emergency service officials and volunteers continued the clean-up in Piedmont while evacuations were ordered along the banks of Po River for fear flooding could spread to the east and south.

Civil defence authorities said an estimated 8,000 people were left homeless after landslides and flooding from burst rivers buried scores of homes in Piedmont.



Italian rescue workers dig their way through collapsed after a landslide causing the death of 14 people (AFP photo)

Twenty-seven people were still missing after Piedmont's worst rainstorms for 80 years. "The local economy has been brought to its knees like after World War II," Giuseppe Pichetto, an industrialist in the Piedmont area, told *Il Sole 24 Ore* newspaper.

Local government officials estimated damage in Piedmont alone could reach \$3.5 billion with another \$600 million in damages in neighbouring Lombardy.

Crops on half the agricultural land in Piedmont were destroyed and hundreds of factories and businesses remained closed, they said. Some officials complained of little warning about the danger of floods despite forecasts of torrential rain.

"On Sunday afternoon, when the flood was at its height, all the television said was advise people not to go out in their cars," said the head of Lombardy's Civil

Protection Department Alberto Di Luca.

Environmentalists blamed the catastrophe in part on soil erosion caused by widespread deforestation carried out to clear hillsides for farming, tourism and housing.

"Flooding has increased by 50 per cent over the last 18 years, but the annual average rainfall has actually decreased," said the environmental pressure group Greenpeace.

Pakistan's Islamic militants release hostages

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AFP) — Islamic militants in northern Pakistan, Tuesday freed scores of hostages unharmed following an appeal from their leader, as peace returned to the trouble-torn area, officials said.

Soofi Mohammad, chief of the Tanzeem ul-Furqan (TNF), called for their release after being escorted to the group's stronghold in the town of Maita in the country's North West Frontier Province, where the captives were held at gunpoint.

The captives included government and police officials as well as judges, held during the six days of bloody fighting between the militants — who are calling for the imposition of Islamic law in the area — and government forces.

"We have reached an agreement with the government and I appeal to you to release the hostages," Deputy Commissioner of the district of Swat — in the Tribes

Malakand Division — quoted Mr. Soofi as telling his followers in Maita.

Speaking through a public address system, Mr. Soofi said he had held "successful negotiations" with the authorities on TNF demands, mainly on the enforcement of Islamic Shariah Laws in the tribal belt.

Following his brief address, the militants lifted their siege of government buildings and freed the hostages without putting up any resistance, the official said.

Those released included two judges, one assistant commissioner, more than a dozen lawyers and many police and paramilitary personnel, the official said.

Security officials had earlier said they did not want to launch an assault on the militants' stronghold for fear of endangering the safety of the hostages as the captors were well-armed.

Residents in the area told AFP that armed activists who

had set up positions on nearby hillsides abandoned their posts after the release, while shops in Maita Bazaar started opening in the afternoon as calm returned to the region.

According to an unofficial count about 40 people have died in six days of violence in the region of Malakand.

During the unrest, religious zealots seized several government buildings, paralysed local administrations and barricaded roads, disrupting communications in the area.

Calm returned to the key towns of Mingora and Saidi Sharif Monday after the TNF agreed to a ceasefire. Mr. Soofi toured the region calling for his followers to lay down their arms as the government had agreed to introduce strict Islamic Law to the tribal region which has a population of about 1.5 million.

Details of agreement reached with the government

were not immediately available.

Pakistan's main human rights group Tuesday hit out at the Muslim militants.

The private Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCPC) urged the government to deal "firmly" with fundamentalist unrest in the Malakand region.

"Any thoughtless concessions to the militant clerics, which derogate from the normal laws of the land and norms of human rights will aggravate the plight of the citizens, especially women and minorities," an HRCPC statement said.

"It will also create a dangerous precedent which might arouse the ambitions of conservative extremists elsewhere in the country," said the statement, issued by HRCPC chief Asma Jahangir.

The group called upon the democratic forces in the country to take a "united stand" against the "forces of anarchy and lawlessness."

Zimbabwe presses Mozambique for unity government

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe, wary of a fresh civil war breaking out in neighbouring Mozambique, has increased pressure on President Joaquim Chissano to form a post-election unity government, Zimbabwean official sources said Tuesday.

"We are giving very strong advice that it is in Mozambique's national interest that FRELIMO and RENAMO work together in a govern-

ment of national unity," one source told Reuters.

"We are counselling for peace and we have been doing it much more in the last few days. Nobody can ever over-emphasise that that is in Mozambique's interest," he added.

Mr. Chissano and his ruling FRELIMO party, which has governed the southern Africa state since it gained independence from Portugal

in 1975, is expected to retain power after a historic general election held last month.

His main rival, Afonso Dhlakama of the former rebel RENAMO movement which waged a 16-year guerrilla fight against FRELIMO until 1992, is seen trailing second in the poll.

The first official results released by Mozambique's independent National Electoral Commission Monday showed

that FRELIMO had so far won 52.17 per cent of the parliamentary votes counted compared to RENAMO's 30.27 per cent — on the basis of less than one-third of votes counted.

In the presidential election, the commission gave Mr. Chissano 62.61 per cent of votes counted compared to only 26.52 per cent for Mr. Dhlakama.

Muslim-Serb shelling puts Sarajevo trace in jeopardy

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Intense fighting between Bosnian government and Serb forces has spread into Sarajevo, threatening a nine-month-old truce on the use of heavy weaponry in the capital, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

After two weeks of successful offensive by the Muslim-led government army against Serb positions in northwest and southwest Bosnia, the two sides engaged in an intense, two-hour exchange of heavy weapons fire here late Monday.

There were at least 170 heavy weapon detonations in the course of the firefight in which at least five civilians were wounded on the Bosnian side, along with two soldiers on the Serb side, U.N. sector commander General Herve Gobillard said.

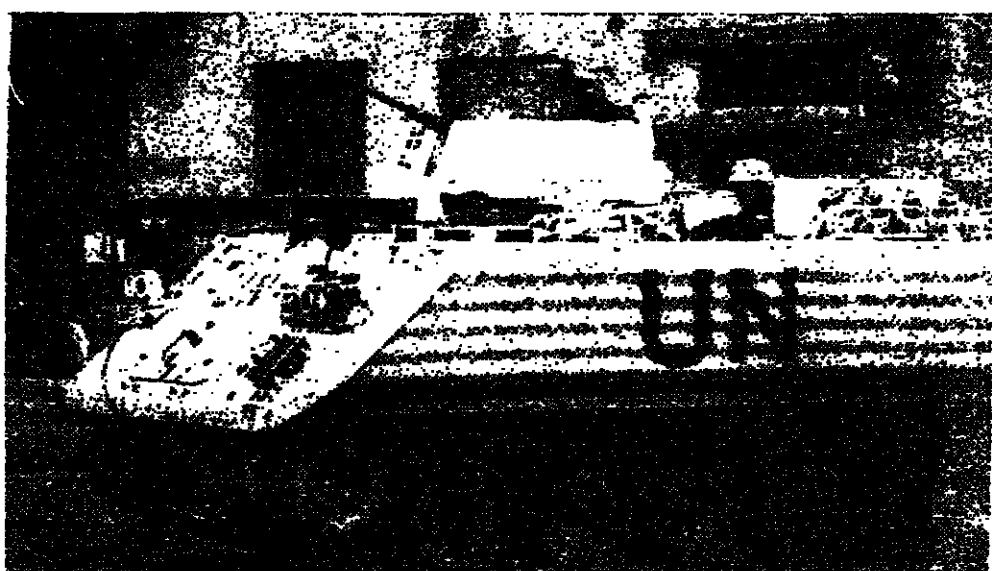
Weapons fired included 82mm and 120mm mortars, both of which are banned from within a 20 kilometre (12.4 mile) radius of the capital, in line with a February shelling truce agreement between warring government and Serb forces.

"If these intense, but usually short-lived firefights develop, they would obviously have a destabilising effect on the military situation here," U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer said.

But he said that the fighting so far was "not significant" in terms "of attacks and changes to the confrontation lines."

"We don't think that we've got a serious situation where the whole process around Sarajevo will unravel," he said.

Monday evening's sudden flare-up around the airport, in the western part of the city, followed an artillery duel Saturday night during which Serbs fired mortars impounded by the United Nations at two weapon collection points, in violation of a



Danish U.N. soldiers patrol the streets of Sarajevo after the NATO warned it will strike at any heavy weapons firing within the 20-km radius around the city. The U.N. forces pressed their calls for a NATO air presence after Bosnian government forces and separatist Serb forces exchanged heavy artillery fire around the Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

NATO-policed accord not to shell the city.

On both Saturday and Sunday, the United Nations was forced to call in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) fighters to buzz respective positions around Sarajevo and dampen the fighting spirit of the warring parties.

A few hours ahead of Monday evening's firefight, Serb forces again entered two U.N.-guarded weapon collection points and, in one instance, fired one 88mm mortar shell at an unknown target, Col. Spicer said.

The firing, during maintenance work on the weapons to which Serbs are given access, was "probably a mistake," he said.

In the second incident, Serbs tried to set up several artillery pieces in ready-firing positions at another compound.

The evening firefight was mostly centred on confrontation lines around the airport, but shells were also fired into inhabited suburbs, including

Bosnian-held Dobrinja and Serb-held Ilidza.

"The firing is getting closer" to the centre of the city, Gen. Gobillard said.

The airport's control tower also came under fire Monday evening and French U.N. soldiers there took to their shelters. Five shells fell inside the airport perimeter, but none hit the runway.

Asked whether NATO fighters could strike at mortars being fired in breach of the total exclusion zone agreement, Gen. Gobillard suggested this would be very difficult.

"I can't really see how we could fire at a target located in the midst of a population whose very protection is our mission," he said.

The outbreak of fighting around Sarajevo followed a series of victories by Muslim-led government forces against Serb positions in northwestern and southwestern Bosnia.

U.N. officials also reported "major military activity" Tuesday morning in the north

of the country, from Doboj to the Posavina Corridor, with small-scale infantry attacks by government forces and large-scale shelling by both parties.

In the west, it remained unclear whether the Serbs had launched their much heralded counter-attacks, but there was heavy shelling of Muslim-held territory by Croatian Serbs to the south-east of Bihać enclave.

In the southwest, where government troops and their Bosnian Croat allies last week captured the strategic town of Kupres, government forces Monday continued a northwesterly advance, but it appeared they were "filling a vacuum" left by retreating Serbs, Col. Spicer said.

Serbs Monday also fired at the Muslim-held enclave of Gorazde, in the east of the country. But the U.N. spokesman said a build-up of Serb forces in the area appeared aimed at threatening Muslim-led troops attacking southeast of Sarajevo rather than the enclave itself.

Supporter retracts comment on Balladur candidacy

PARIS (R) — A parliamentary supporter of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Tuesday the premier would definitely be a candidate in primary elections for next year's presidential election, then hastily retracted his words.

The prime minister's office said parliamentarian Patrick Balkany had been speaking only for himself and his statement did not reflect Mr. Balladur's intentions.

The incident was an embarrassment for the conservative premier, who has sought to remain above the fray while his fellow Gaullist rival Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, has plunged into premature campaigning by announcing his candidacy.

Thirteen hard core pro-Balladur deputies attended a strategy meeting Tuesday with government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy and the head of Mr. Balladur's office, Nicolas Bazire, the premier's two closest aides.

Emerging from the session, Mr. Balkany told France 3 Television "Edouard Balladur always said he wouldn't be a candidate before January, but he said last night he was ready to participate in primaries in January."

"He will be a candidate in primaries if there are other candidates for (such) primaries," Mr. Balkany added.

Within half an hour, Mr. Bazire issued a statement saying: "Any declaration sug-

gesting that the prime minister's support for the organisation of primaries reflects his intention to participate in this system comes neither from him nor from those close to him."

Mr. Balkany then went on to say he had been misunderstood and had meant to express his personal hope and belief that Mr. Balladur would indeed be a candidate.

Mr. Balladur was attending a Franco-African summit meeting in the southwestern town of Biarritz at the time.

Mr. Chirac announced his presidential candidacy last Friday and dismissed the idea of primaries to select a single conservative contender.

Proposed by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, as too late and too costly.

Responding indirectly to Mr. Chirac's move, Mr. Balladur said for the first time clearly Monday that he favoured holding a primary election in January to choose a unity candidate for his centre-right coalition.

President Francois Mitterrand has said he doubts primaries would be constitutional, and many political commentators doubt they will ever be held, suggesting the entire debate is a tactic to make Mr. Balladur appear as the natural unity candidate and make Mr. Chirac look divisive.

The prime minister has carefully avoided saying he

would be a candidate himself, insisting he is too busy governing the country and will only address the presidential election next year.

Mr. Chirac has reopened deep wounds in France over European Union by promising voters the final say over plans for a single European currency if they elect him as president next year.

Mr. Chirac's pledge led to the first clash with the government of Mr. Balladur, in which Mr. Chirac's party is the dominant partner, since he became the first main contender to enter the presidential race last Friday.

Economy Minister Edmund Alphandery, a centrist, said Monday he saw no reason to consult voters again because they had approved the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in a referendum in 1992.

The vote was a "yes" by a cliffhanger 51-49 per cent.

"Personally I see no reason to consult again the French people who have clearly expressed their views," Mr. Alphandery told reporters in Brussels commenting on Mr. Chirac's outline of his campaign strategy at the weekend.

Mr. Chirac, winning the first round of his underdog bid to succeed President Francois Mitterrand in 1995 by grabbing the headlines, said voters should have the final say once a single currency was possible precisely be-

cause they were the ones who voted in 1992.

In the Maastricht Treaty, only Britain and Denmark have formal opt-outs from joining an eventual single EU currency if their economies meet all necessary criteria — other nations are meant to move automatically to union.

Germany, however, plans to give its parliament a final say.

Mr. Chirac further distanced himself from the government over EU policy by doubting the official timetable for EU economic and monetary union, saying he did not think it possible this century.

Analysts say Mr. Chirac may be better placed than the other likely candidates — Balladur on the right and European Commission President Jacques Delors on the left — to tap continuing unease in France about the EU.

Mr. Delors is one of the main architects of European Union and Mr. Balladur a strong supporter.

The first poll taken since Mr. Chirac announced his third candidacy Friday showed his popularity had risen. Mr. Chirac ran unsuccessfully in 1981 and 1988.

The IFOP poll showed Mr. Chirac had almost caught up with Balladur as the voters' preferred conservative contender with 15 per cent. Mr. Delors led them both on 20,

Ghali to propose security options in Rwandan camps

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday he plans to propose several options to the U.N. Security Council to restore security in Rwandan refugee camps controlled by Hutu extremists and killer gangs.

He said international efforts to deal with the problem will depend on the willingness of members of the Security Council to finance such efforts.

Shahryar Khan, the special U.N. envoy to Rwanda, suggested sending a 4,800-strong multinational African force into the camps for up to a year to monitor the situation there.

He added that "in coming hours" the U.N. Security Council may set up a special tribunal to try those responsible for the massacre of up to one million people during the ethnic bloodletting

that engulfed the country between April and July.

But Rwanda's Vice-President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame, the head of the former rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), has said his country plans to vote against a resolution creating an international war crimes tribunal.

In an interview published in Tuesday's New York Times, he also called for the dismissal of U.S. Ambassador David Rawson, whom he accused of having been too sympathetic to the former Hutu government.

Gen. Kagame said that in weekend negotiations with U.N. representatives an impasse had been reached on three issues involving the war crimes tribunals.

A U.N. report last month concluded that Rwanda's Tutsi minority was the victim of premeditated genocide in

three months of ethnic bloodshed which began in April and claimed the lives of between 500,000 and a million unarmed civilians before the Tutsi-led RPF seized power.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has accused "troops of the RPF of carrying out mass summary executions of Hutu civilians in reprisals for the genocide."

Gen. Kagame said his government objected to holding the trials in Europe, because European prisons were deemed too comfortable for those found guilty.

Gen. Kagame said setting such a cutoff date would protect the planners of the genocide, as well as the French, who were the major backers of the ousted Hutu regime.

"It is not only Rwandese who were complicit in the genocide. I think one day we have to accuse the French of

being involved in the genocide," the vice president said.

The slaughter began after President Juvenal Habyarimana of the Hutu majority was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6. Rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized control of the capital Kigali in July and set up a new government.

More than a million people fled the central African highland nation for neighbouring countries, most of them to eastern Zaire, where huge refugee camps have been established north and south of Lake Kivu.

Fifteen humanitarian organisations threatened last week to withdraw from the camps unless immediate measures were taken to end the cycle of murder, banditry and intimidation perpetrated by Hutu extremist militias inside the camps.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. **Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.**

IRAQ HAS taken a very practical step by announcing that no problem exists between Baghdad and Tel Aviv, said Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour. Tuesday, Iraq has no common border with Israel, like the Gulf states, has no reason to maintain the state of belligerency with the Jewish state after the confrontation countries have taken steps to resolve their conflict with Israel, said the writer. Indeed, no war has passed with Baghdad before moving towards peace with Israel, he added. Baghdad has to participate in any moves towards shaping up the future of the new Arab order, said Mr. Qallab. The Palestinians, the Jordanians and the Egyptians have taken moves towards peace with Israel and the Syrians and the Lebanese are on their way to follow suit, continued the writer. Therefore, there was nothing left for the Iraqis but to follow the lead of the Arab states, which do not have common borders with Israel, and which are now making moves to establish relations with the Jewish state, said the writer. The Iraqi move, he added, could have come at a stage when some Arabs but, with national dreams aside, one can only say that Baghdad has taken a practical step that is most reasonable under the present circumstances.



MAYO CAMP — Ghaboosh Alballah looks across the bleak dusty plain south of Khartoum that has been his home for the past six months.

Thousands of makeshift tents, refuge for countless displaced Sudanese families, stretch out to the skyline. Not one tree breaks the horizon or offers shade from the blazing sun.

"We will stay here in the dust till we die," says Mr. Alballah, a farmer from Sudan's fertile Nuba mountains who two years ago fled with his family from fierce fighting in their homeland.

No end to

suffering

ple who have fled over the years to Khartoum and its twin city across the Nile, Omdurman, lived for a year with his wife and six children in the back of a broken-down truck.

Then government troops herded them into Mayo camp, one of four official "displacement camps" scattered on the fringes of Khartoum and home to up to 500,000 hungry, dispossessed people.

There they joined the growing ranks of people forcibly relocated from shanty towns and squatter camps by authorities an-

Insisting the camps are temporary, it forbids residents from building anything more permanent than tents, mostly patchworks of

Mr. Alballah says it still sometimes takes hours on foot to reach water supplies, walking in temperatures that even in late autumn reach nearly 40 Cels.

MAYO CAMP — Ghaboosh Alballah looks across the bleak dusty plain south of Khartoum that has been his home for the past six months.

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"We will stay here in the dust till we die," says Mr. Alballah, a farmer from Sudan's fertile Nuba mountains who two years ago fled with his family from fierce fighting in their homeland.

famine in Sudan briefly pricked Western consciences, recurring crop failures and an 11-year civil war continue to plague Africa's largest country, creating one of the world's biggest internally displaced populations.

The Islamist-backed government, at war with Christian and animist southern rebels, has little time or resources for the displaced, focusing instead on grand designs for spreading Islam in the south and rebuilding wide expanses of Khartoum.

Mr. Albailah, one of an

ple who have fled over the years to Khartoum and its twin city across the Nile, Omdurman, lived for a year with his wife and six children in the back of a broken-down truck.

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There they joined the growing ranks of people forcibly relocated from shanty towns and squatter camps by authorities an-

prime urban areas. Aid agencies say that the last count nearly a year ago the population of Mayagüez had doubled in six months to over 7,000 families, with an average of three to six children per family. Since then the influx has continued.

They say the government does little to alleviate grim conditions in the camps, and sometimes makes things worse.

Insisting the camps are temporary, it forbids residents from building anything more permanent than tents, mostly patchworks of

The aid workers say the government has also bulldozed some areas where they had spent millions of dollars installing water pumps, and has yet to give assurances it will not do the same to vital water facilities installed this year in Mayo.

Mr. Alballah says it still sometimes takes hours on foot to reach water supplies, walking in temperatures that even in late au-

sius (104 Fahrenheit).

Despite what the United Nations describes as alarming rates of malnutrition, every request for food delivery has to go through a painfully drawn-out procedure for government approval.

"It takes ages: The last distribution at some of the camps was in June, and there's no news on the next batch," laments a southern Sudanese aid worker.

Finding work near the camps is almost impossible — one of them is 45 kilometres from the centre of Khartoum — so residents become dependent

Featu

Meeting review

(Continued from page 1)

only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Major General David Levy, hinted, however, his country "sincerely believes in peace" more than "in possession" and would "willing to address the nuclear fears of the countries of the region at the appropriate time."

Israeli delegates also said that the absence of key countries such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and the Soviet Union limited the scope of the work of the multinational working group on arms control, one of five assigned them to run the discussions.

"We're looking forward to cooperating with Arab countries on the whole range of security issues, and we will try to find how this process addresses our concerns as those of everybody else," Gen. Levy told the Associated Press.

Gen. Levy said "We've repeatedly made statements that we see this as creating the climate and the atmosphere that will make it possible to deal satisfactorily with this issue at an appropriate time."

"There are interesting ideas on the table now for exchanging information, for cooperating in certain areas, visits, contacts, visiting information exchanges," they are very important," said Mr. Levy. "It is the general of Israel's Defense Ministry and a former force commander."

Frederick Aitgard, junior U.S. State Department official and veteran arms control negotiator, said the issue of nuclear weapons was not expected to be discussed during the next meeting.

"This issue will be discussed in what we call our general basket," he told AP. This meeting is an optional basket, and we've said our work. This will be won't be discussing line of weapons of mass destruction."

Russia announces

(Continued from page 1)

US sanctions have complicated the Iraqi position making inflation spiraling and causing shortages of food and medicines.

The latest move came from Mr. Kovryev, said on the U.S. had received a message from President Saddam Hussein that he was ready to negotiate the Kuwaiti borders.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the time Mr. Kovryev was securing the Iraqi offer to recognize Kuwait was "a principled and constitutes an important step" for the Iraqi rebuilding.

Baghdad later asked for its deployment.

The Arab League then welcomed the announcement from Moscow.

Speaking in Cairo, the League Secretary General Abdul Mounem el-Baroud said the Iraqi decision was "the beginning of a process which I hope will lead to a new situation in the area and of the consequences of August 1990 invasion."

Israel to ease

(Continued from page 1)

quickened implementation autonomy by holding simultaneous talks on electricity and a military redeployment.

The pullback is due to be complete by the end of the year, but Mr. Rabin had insisted that the electricity be finalised before redeployment talks.

The vote was set for July under the 1993 settlement principles for self rule to put off until next week arguments raged about

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

ations are left on their own under conditions that must not allow their success to diminish their freedom of movement from Israel.

Thus, regardless of realistic or unrealistic conclusion might well be reached by Palestinians are expected to come to terms with it by how far it is from vary from total autonomy to any form of role to total support.

Some demands that Jordan renounce its role in the region.

LETTERS

Iraq cannot be ignored

Wael Saleem Karadallah, Amman

revitalising the economy

ed

Features

Meeting reviews arms control

(Continued from page 1)

only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Major-General David Ivry, hinted, however, that his country, widely believed to possess more than 200 nuclear warheads, would be willing to address the nuclear needs of the countries of the region at the "appropriate time."

Israeli delegates also said that the absence of key countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya limited the scope of the work of the multilateral working group on arms control, one of five, and urged them to join the discussion.

"We're looking forward to cooperating with Arab countries on the whole range of security issues, and we would like to find how this process addresses our concerns and those of everybody else," Gen. Ivry told the Associated Press.

Gen. Ivry said: "We've repeatedly made statements that we see this process creating the climate and the atmosphere that will make it possible to deal satisfactorily with this issue at the appropriate time."

There are interesting ideas on the table, not only on exchanging information for cooperating in certain areas, visits contacts, voluntary information exchange, they are very important," said Mr. Ivry, director-general of Israel's Defence Ministry and a former air force commander.

Frederick Axelgard, a senior U.S. State Department official and veteran of arms control negotiations, said the issue of nuclear weapons was not expected to be discussed during the current meeting.

"This issue will be discussed what we call our common basket," he told the press. "The meeting is an operational matter, and we've discussed the work. This week we're discussing the issue of weapons of mass destruction."

The Dead Sea meeting comes ahead of a full session of the working group on regional arms control and security to be held in Tunis on Dec. 15.

France announces Iraqi move

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. sanctions have crippled the Iraqi economy, leading to shortages of food and medicine.

The latest move comes after Mr. Kozyrev said on Oct. 14 that he had received assurances from President Saddam that Baghdad was ready to recognize Kuwait's borders.

U.S. Secretary of State James Christopher said at the time Mr. Kozyrev's role in securing the Iraqi offer to recognize Kuwait was "misleading and constitutes an attempt to reward" for the Iraqi role in the Gulf crisis.

Baghdad later rolled back its offer, and the Arab League Tuesday rejected the announcement from Moscow.

Speaking in Cairo, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Abdallah Moukoko said the Iraqi decision was "the beginning of a process which will lead to a normal situation in the area and that of the consequences of the August 1990 (invasion of Kuwait) will be solved."

He stressed the recognition "should be completed by the implementation of remaining U.N. Security Council resolutions... so there will be security in the region."

The Security Council is to review the sanctions against Iraq next Monday, as it has done every two months since they were imposed.

The review will be preceded by an oral presentation on Friday by Rolf Ekeus, the head of a special U.N. commission monitoring Iraq's military capability.

U.N. diplomats here said several members of the Security Council, including China, France and Russia, would seek to have the oil embargo against Iraq lifted in six months if Baghdad agreed to recognize Kuwait's borders.

According to the private Russian television station NTV, Israeli and British diplomats were clearly participating in the Moscow talks Tuesday.

A Russian diplomat said at the meeting opened: "We think the sanctions cannot be kept in force forever."

Israel to ease blockade

(Continued from page 1)

Implementation of the economic blockade on elections and military redeployment, and the blockade is due to be lifted by the end of the year, but Mr. Rabin had earlier said that the election would be held before any redeployment talks.

The vote was set for July 13 for the 1993 declaration of independence for self-rule but was postponed until next year, as the two sides argued about the

Christians feel abandoned

(Continued from page 1)

They are left on their own in conditions that might allow their freedom or national identity from Israel.

They are left on their own in conditions that might allow their freedom or national identity from Israel.

destruction."

Before the meeting opened, Dr. Touqan expressed hope that Israel would soon join a ban on nuclear weapons.

"Next year, there is going to be a lot of conventions and treaties, and I hope that Israel will re-look into all of those and will start considering the importance of its joining in," Dr. Touqan was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and related programmes was raised in the meetings of the regional working group of the environment, which said it feared Israeli dumping of radioactive material in the desert could be a main source of pollution in the area.

But Israel resisted the Egyptian demands, saying the issue of nuclear programmes could not be discussed by the working group on environment but by the group on arms control and security.

Gen. Ivry, the Israeli ministry official, told Tuesday's opening session that his country sought to "broaden the dialogue further to accommodate all states of the region not before too long."

That appeared to be a reference to regional powers like Iraq, Iran and Syria which are not yet part of the quest for military stability in the Middle East.

Gen. Ivry also told reporters that the absence of key countries "limits" the scope of the work of the working group and that "if they came in and joined us, we could be more productive."

Countries participating in the meeting include Egypt, France, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen as well as the U.S. and Russia, co-sponsors of the three-year-old Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Dead Sea meeting comes ahead of a full session of the working group on regional arms control and security to be held in Tunis on Dec. 15.

London becomes a haven for fundamentalist dissidents

By Michael Binyon

LONDON HAS become one of the world's most important havens for Islamic fundamentalist dissidents. Whereas Paris used to offer sanctuary to opponents of communist and other totalitarian governments, Britain is where radical opponents of moderate Muslim governments are plotting their overthrow.

Under liberal asylum laws that do little to curb the political activities of those allowed to stay in Britain, an increasing number of hardline groups intent on combating Western values and influence are operating from London offices, protected by the democratic institutions they are intent on overthrowing at home.

Members of many of the world's most notorious extremist groups have arrived in London recently to take advantage of the good communications and media concentration, knowing that the only restriction is that they must not break British law.

They include men such as Ahmad Al Massari, a Saudi fundamentalist who heads the so-called committee for Defence of Legitimate Rights which is working for the overthrow of the Saudi monarchy; Rashid Ghanouchi, leader of the banned Tunisian Islamic Party An Nahda, who has been accused of masterminding a bomb attack that injured several British tourists in Tunisia; supporters of Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which has

ordered the killing of foreigners in Algeria and is engaged in a civil war that has taken up to 25,000 lives; and members of Hamas, the radical Palestinian group which claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv bus bomb that killed 26.

Most of the radicals are working against Muslim governments that Britain considers friendly and moderate. Angry and frustrated, those governments are urging Britain to outlaw or expel these groups, and have taken up the cases of individual dissidents at the highest level, with the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary. Concerned at the damage this could cause a setback to peace in the Middle East, Britain is stepping up its surveillance of fundamentalists operating here. But the Home Office is unwilling to change the criteria for admission and is loath to undermine Britain's reputation for fair dealing by accommodating politically acceptable views.

Nevertheless, the government is pondering an idea that goes against the entire tradition of political asylum: whether it should attempt to deport "undesirable" applicants even at the risk of subsequently having the order overturned in the courts.

Although it does have the rarely invoked power to deport foreigners on grounds that their presence would hurt national security, the Home Office has traditionally been reluctant to make deportation orders it could not uphold in court. Douglas Hurd, as foreign secretary, knows that an attempt, even if

Building a model school with international dimension

FOLLOWING IS the text of a speech that Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath gave at the inauguration ceremony of the Sports Complex of the Amman Baccalaureate School Monday. The ceremony was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other officials. Princess Sarvath is the Chairperson of the school's Board of Trustees.

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen,

THE AMMAN BACCALAUREATE School was founded with the intention that it should be a model national school but with an international dimension and as such, bilingualism became central to the school's academic policy; indeed to the very spirit of the school.

And it is in keeping with this same spirit that I have attempted to speak bilingually. The school has always striven to combine academic achievement with creativity and innovation, and to provide our students not merely with "qualifications" but with a truly rounded "education." It has contributed to an awareness of the potential of education within the country, and of the standards attainable. Many new schools have been set up in our wake, and programmes developed by the school such as the Crown Prince Award, have expanded to become national schemes.

Our graduates are a source of pride not only to us, but to Jordan, whom they represent admirably at some of the finest universities worldwide.

Having pioneered so much in the academic and cultural fields, it was appropriate for the school to also provide the best possible sports facilities, for the benefit of both physique and the character. A 19th century sportsman once said that: "Games require patience, good temper, perseverance, good luck, and above all implicit obedience; that it was no bad training for a child to

be skinned at football or given out wrongly at cricket and to be able to take the affliction quietly, with good temper and a gracious spirit.... For it is as much sportsmanship, as well as a superb training in the sports that we seek to impart to our students through these facilities. That this dream of a sports complex to help us achieve these goals has finally come true is entirely due to the very generous help of our friends, who have always kept faith with us, as well as the unstinting efforts and support of the entire ABS community. If our premises are impressive or even luxurious, it is not only because the Hashemite Society for Education always aims to set the highest standards in everything that it undertakes, but because it is also our hope that this sports complex, will, inshallah, contribute to the development of school sports in the Kingdom as a whole. We hope to see other institutions availing themselves of our facilities and look forward to our halls and fields being as central to the sporting life of Jordan as our theatre has become a focus of its cultural life.

Some attempt has been made to tighten restrictions. After protests from France, the government has looked carefully at the activities of FIS members here; applications for asylum by Algerians are routinely referred to M15. Those granted asylum are now given an explicit warning that if they support or conspire to cause violence whether in Britain or abroad and so endanger national security or public order, their stay may be curtailed or they may be deported. The attempted deportation of Kani Yilmaz, a leader of the Kurdish PKK group, underlines the explicit link to violence — though not necessarily to Islamic fundamentalism — of these groups. More than 60 members of the PKK were deported last year after being accused of intimidating Turks in Britain. However, Britain turned down a request from Ankara to outlaw the PKK.

Another group active in Britain is the Iranian People's Mujahideen, known in the West as the National Council of Resistance and linked to the Iraq-based National Liberation Army. The State Department in Washington, despite poor relations with Iran, has issued a report saying this group was not a viable alternative to Tehran.

The Times.

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They include men such as Ahmad Al Massari, a Saudi fundamentalist who heads the so-called committee for Defence of Legitimate Rights which is working for the overthrow of the Saudi monarchy; Rashid Ghanouchi, leader of the banned Tunisian Islamic Party An Nahda, who has been accused of masterminding a bomb attack that injured several British tourists in Tunisia; supporters of Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which has

ordered the killing of foreigners in Algeria and is engaged in a civil war that has taken up to 25,000 lives; and members of Hamas, the radical Palestinian group which claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv bus bomb that killed 26.

Most of the radicals are working against Muslim governments that Britain considers friendly and moderate. Angry and frustrated, those governments are urging Britain to outlaw or expel these groups, and have taken up the cases of individual dissidents at the highest level, with the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary. Concerned at the damage this could cause a setback to peace in the Middle East, Britain is stepping up its surveillance of fundamentalists operating here. But the Home Office is unwilling to change the criteria for admission and is loath to undermine Britain's reputation for fair dealing by accommodating politically acceptable views.

Nevertheless, the government is pondering an idea that goes against the entire tradition of political asylum: whether it should attempt to deport "undesirable" applicants even at the risk of subsequently having the order overturned in the courts.

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Standing up to the Khmer Rouge

By Mark Dodd

Reuter

PHNOM PENH — The Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction could be wiped out within three years if foreign governments provided Cambodia with arms and training, Defence Minister Tea Banh said in a weekend interview.

"Foreign military aid is very essential. It would respond to our Royal Cambodian Armed Forces needs," he told Reuters. "With the military assistance from outside, the army would be able to eliminate the outlawed rebels in three years."

Exuding confidence, General Banh said a recent government victory in southern Vietnam Mountain was the first step towards neutralising the Khmer Rouge.

"The victory means the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) is now on the way to defeating the outlawed rebels," he said.

Three western hostages, three ethnic Vietnamese and possibly two Cambodians were executed by Khmer Rouge guerrillas on Vietnam Mountain before government troops finally captured the insurgents' base late last month.

Briton Mark Slater, 28, Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, from France and David Wil-

son, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage on July 26 after Khmer Rouge guerrillas ambushed the Phnom Penh to Siem Reap train, leaving 13 people killed.

The hostages were taken to nearby Vine Mountain, the stronghold of Khmer Rouge guerrilla commander General Noun Paet who escaped just before government troops overran his base.

The murders of the three westerners caused an international outcry and complaints that the Cambodian government had botched efforts to free the hostages.

The defence minister insisted, however, that Southern Kampot Province was now much safer for Cambodians and foreign tourists to visit following the government's military victory there.

Between 150 and 200 rebel fighters had defected to the government side, bringing with them their weapons and families.

France's Chirac announces candidacy, risks burn-out

By Paul Taylor

Reuter

PARIS — Gaullist Party leader Jacques Chirac Friday became the first major contender to declare his candidacy for next year's French presidential election, rushing into the race six months before the ballot.

Mr. Chirac, who is mayor of Paris, said France was in a "state of emergency" because of record unemployment and needed "a real policy of change."

Twice defeated for the presidency in 1981 and 1988, he took the risk of an early burn-out because he is trailing a distant third in opinion polls behind fellow Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Socialist European Commission President Jacques Delors, who are neck-and-neck.

"I have decided to clarify the situation by announcing today that I am a candidate for the next presidential election," Mr. Chirac, 61, told the newspaper La Voix du Nord. "No one really doubted it but I think things have to be said clearly."

In a rush to endorse Mr. Chirac's candidacy before Mr. Balladur can fight back, the Gaullist RPR Party announced it would hold an emergency congress in just eight days' time on Nov. 12.

While Mr. Chirac controls the Rally for the Republic (RPR) Party machine, many parliamentarians and grassroots members prefer Mr. Balladur as candidate because they believe only he can win.

The Times.

Despite the deaths of the hostages, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said the tragic event underscored the need to assist the Cambodian military.

So far Phnom Penh has received only non-lethal assistance, from France, the United States and, to a lesser extent, Australia.

However, Canberra is likely to provide the RCAF with a communications network which would give the nation's military more efficient command and control structure.

Before Cambodia is given lethal aid, sympathetic western countries want to see a radical overhaul of the currently officer-bloated, corrupt armed forces which boast about 2,000 generals and 10,000 colonels.

The RCAF's stated strength is 130,000 men, but analysts say the real figure is closer to 90,000. "Ghosting" is also commonplace, a practice where officers collect the pay of non-existent soldiers.

Frontline army commanders in Kampot reported a big boost in troop morale following the Vine Mountain victory.

"Yes, this is a big victory. This is the first time we've been able to capture Phnom Vor (Vine Mountain)," said Brigadier-General Paul Savoeun, speaking at his base in a Coconut Grove about 20 km east of Kampot town.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath

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Hubble space telescope proves indispensable

By Emmanuel Serot

Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — The Hubble space telescope, its faulty lens fixed a year ago, has fast-forwarded astronomical discoveries into commonplace events, leaving behind centuries of slowly evolved theories.

In a series of dazzling discoveries, Hubble picked up the impending collision of a comet with Jupiter, allowing scientists for the first time to observe such a crash; uncovered black holes; and gathered data revising theories on the universe's age.

The space telescope has become indispensable to astronomers since NASA corrected its technical problems in a spacewalking repair mission last November.

Hubble's latest big scoop came last week when it provided indications that the universe is between eight and 12 billion years old, much younger than the 20-some billion years postulated in earlier theories.

The powerful eye in space helped a team of California astronomers to calculate the distance between Earth and a faraway galaxy with unprecedented precision.

Steve Maran of the American Astronomy Association says data gathered by Hubble is "the first reliable measurement" for estimating the age of the universe.

Hubble — a huge cylinder 13 metres long and weighing more than a dozen tonnes — is just doing its job: helping scientists to accurately measure distant bodies in the universe.

Recently it transmitted images of the planet Uranus and its rings, which had not been visible since the Voyager-2 probe mission a decade ago.

Last month the telescope spotted an unexpected astral phenomenon some 166,000 light years away from Earth: two star clusters strangely close. The discovery advances theories on star formations.

And Hubble started in the collision of the Shoemaker-Levy-9 comet with Jupiter last July. The

telescope tracked the comet — which approached the planet in a train of pieces — as it entered the Jovian atmosphere.

Another show is expected soon when Hubble begins looking at Saturn's moon Titan.

"Hubble has already made a great contribution to cosmology. We now know that we can rely on it. It is a decisive step forward for science," said Mr. Maran.

Astronomers have asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build a new camera for the Hubble because its current technology is outmoded, he said. "It is possible to get even sharper pictures."

But for NASA's critics who believe the space agency is overfunded, Hubble is the perfect target.

Jointly built by NASA and the European Space Agency and placed in orbit in 1990, the telescope delivered only fuzzy data until its lens was fixed. NASA has spent \$1.5 billion on the unique instrument.

Kuwait arms purchases curbed by budget deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Western allies made fresh weapons sales to Kuwait amid recent tension with Iraq, but big windfall purchases were few largely because the emirate's growing budget deficit inspires spending caution, experts say.

The largest sale occurred at the start of the border confrontation when the Pentagon said Kuwait planned to buy 16 AH-64 Apache helicopters and missiles and rockets for \$692 million.

But a Pentagon statement said there was no connection between the Kuwaiti move and the Iraqi border buildup that triggered the dispatch of large U.S. forces to the Gulf.

That aside, there were only slim pickings for a world arms industry increasingly reliant on wealthy Gulf states like Kuwait, the world's biggest spender on defence in per capita terms since its 1991 liberation from Iraqi occupation.

The emirate expects a 1.5 billion dinar (\$5 billion) budget deficit in the 1993/94 fiscal year, more than a quarter of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product, and expects the shortfall to keep rising for the next five years.

Kuwait has enough state investments to cover about 10 years' worth of such deficits, but that would deplete assets meant to be saved up for the benefit of future generations.

Total budgeted defence and security spending including procurement also comes to about 1.5 billion dinars — "a high and unbearable level, which might now increase," wrote economist Jasssem Al Saadoun at the height of last month's flareup.

Apart from financial constraints, diplomats say military procurement planning is undeveloped and understaffed and officials struggle to administer big post-Gulf war purchases.

"The picture on sales was fairly fuzzy before the latest crisis, and it is still fuzzy now," said one defence expert.

"The Kuwaitis are still struggling to modernise and if you look at what they had already committed themselves to over the past two years, it means a huge amount of money. The real story is whether they can manage to organise it all."

Kuwait is already spending several billion dollars on tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, air defence missiles and warplanes to rebuild armed forces destroyed in Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Also, defence sales have become controversial. Opposition members of parliament have attacked post-war defence procurement as profligate, secretive and occasionally corrupt.

Kuwait's main purchases

over the past month include an agreement with Britain for the supply of £50 million (\$80 million) worth of Starburst air defence missiles.

Defence sources said Kuwait was also spending between \$30 million and \$40 million on shells for its Yugoslav-made M-84 tanks, because during the October emergency the army found some units lacked adequate supplies.

The future is not entirely bleak for arms salesmen. Kuwait is expected to seek the expedited delivery of Russian BMP-3 armoured cars and Smerch multi-launch rocket systems costing a total of 400 million to \$500 million.

It has also bought chemical warfare suits from Britain last month and is looking at U.S. thermal-imaging night vision equipment for fortification on the Iraq border and for installation in the Russian BMP-3s, defence experts say.

Big purchases diplomats say are in prospect in the next year or two include the supply of 16 American Blackhawk helicopters for about \$500 million and the purchase from France of up to eight fast patrol boats worth at least \$270 million.

Diplomats say Kuwait is also considering the purchase late in the 1990s of an air defence radar, six missile attack boats and 24 self-propelled howitzers.

Mitterrand attacks World Bank role in Africa

BIARRITZ, France (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand told the World Bank Tuesday to be more "humble", accusing it of playing a hypocritical role in Africa.

In a sharp attack on the Washington-based institution at the opening of the Franco-African summit, he told the bank to concentrate on making money if that was how it saw its job.

"That is very good for the bank but let her then limit her role to that of banker and not claim to be a guardian of orthodoxy and a judge of what is good or bad for the people from the height of that pedestal would she do that?" he said.

Under Mr. Mitterrand's 13-year reign, France has often chafed at the bank's policies on Africa with officials portraying it as dominated by the United States.

Pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was instrumental in forcing France to abandon its support for a strong CFA franc.



Francois Mitterrand

the common currency in 14 African countries linked to the French franc.

Last January the CFA was devalued by 50 per cent, the first change in parity since 1948.

Before the Franco-African summit, Mr. Mitterrand's last before he retires next May, French officials have accused the World Bank of failing miserably to honour financial pledges to CFA countries following the devaluation.

"Like other institutions, the World Bank has its share of successes and failures from which it should draw lessons of humility," Mr. Mitterrand told African presidents at the start of the two-day summit.

Staunchly defending France as the most generous industrial power, he said his country gave 3.4 times more aid to Africa than the World Bank did.

Privatisation to spur investment influx to S. Arabia

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's plans to privatise key government institutions will likely trigger an investment influx that will help it offset economic damage caused by low oil prices, experts have said.

Although foreign investors will face restrictions on full ownership, they will still benefit largely from entering joint ventures with the Saudi private sector given the incentives it receives from the government.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, announced early this year it would sell several public facilities and open its petrochemical and refining industries to the private sector in a bid to revive its economy which has sharply slowed down because of a decline in crude prices.

The kingdom has also announced a set of new incentives for the private sector within its 1995-2000 development plan to encourage it to bring back its funds from abroad although the plan has set no investment target.

"There is no doubt all these measures by the Saudi government will open up a vast scope for foreign investors to enter joint projects

with the Saudi private sector. This will benefit all parties," the Kuwaiti-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said in a study.

Saudi Arabia started to encourage the private sector after oil prices began to climb down in the mid 1980s. Such a trend gained momentum after the kingdom started to suffer from accumulating local and foreign debt and its overseas assets were sapped by huge payments for the anti-Iraq international coalition.

King Fahd conceded last week his Gulf nation was suffering from cash shortages because of costs linked to the 1991 Gulf war. But he had repeatedly insisted the economy was sound and privatisation plans would go ahead.

Such plans will likely cover the telephone and electricity and water sectors, airport services, the national airlines Saudia and refining and petrochemicals. Three months ago, the government said it would sell nearly half its 70 per cent stake in the industrial giant SABIC, which has a capital of 10 billion Saudi riyals (\$2.66 billion).

"I expect privatisation in Saudi Arabia to be successful given the high liquidity in the local market and the huge resources of the private sector internally and abroad," said Yusuf Khalifa, an economic professor at the Emirates University.

"This will open the door for the establishment of new

companies that will attract national and foreign investment," he added.

The ACIG study showed foreign investment in Saudi Arabia, mostly in industries and banking, totalled 23.8 billion riyals (\$6.34 billion) by the end of 1993. They are based in 360 joint ventures with the Saudi public and private sectors with a total value of 55.3 billion riyals (\$14.74 billion).

Like other Gulf states, Saudi Arabia still restricts full ownership for foreign investors, stipulating nationals must have at least 51 per cent shareholding in any project. Such terms have dissuaded potential major investors from the United States, Japan and other industrial powers.

But ACIG said foreigners could still benefit from their partnership with Saudi investors given their knowledge of the local market and the incentives they are offered by the government, including soft-term loans and a 10-year exemption from taxes on industrial and farming projects.

Industrial loans extended by the Saudi Fund for Industrial Development by the end of 1993 covered 1.160 projects worth 19.8 billion riyals (\$5.28 billion) while agricultural loans totalled 25.7 billion riyals (\$6.85 billion), according to ACIG, a key League organisation.

Despite a 19 per cent cut in the 1994 budget, allocations for credits were slightly reduced to 7.9 billion riyals (\$2.1 billion) this year.

Russian president names reformer Yasin as new economics minister

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday named Yevgeny Yasin as new Russian economics minister, a presidential spokesman said.

Mr. Yasin was head of the president's Centre for Economic Analysis and has taken part in the preparatory work for most of Russia's economic reform programmes. He has a reputation as a reformer and replaces Alexander Shokhin, who quit last week.

Mr. Yasin, 50, is the second member of Mr. Yeltsin's own economic team to join the Russian government in the last week. Mr. Yeltsin last week named Vladimir Pankov as finance minister.

Mr. Yasin is a professional economist and was one of the authors of a radical 500-day programme which was the first attempt to create a market economic system in the Soviet Union. He is not affiliated with any Russian political party.

Mr. Shokhin, who was also Russia's chief debt negotiator, said he was quitting because he had not been consulted over Mr. Pankov's appointment. His departure was the latest in a series of

government changes since Russia's "black Tuesday," when the rouble crashed to all time lows against the dollar.

Russian banks have pleaded not guilty to triggering last month's rouble crash, portraying themselves as playing an innocent part in a market game.

"The Association of Russian Banks protests strongly against attempts to pin responsibility (for the rouble crash) on the commercial banking systems," said a statement released at a news conference.

Association Chairman Sergei Yegorov went a step further: "What sort of a market economy are we talking about if market players can be blamed for playing the market?" he asked.

The comments followed bitter criticism of Russia's banking system from the Russian Security Council, which met to consider Russia's "black Tuesday" of Oct. 11 when the rouble crashed to new lows of 3,926 against the dollar.

It has since recovered to around 3,100 per dollar.

The council includes top officials from the so-called power ministries of defence and security forces.

It recommended the setting up of a commission to investigate banks' activities and to discuss whether those who took part in what it said was "illegal speculation" could lose their licences to trade convertible currencies.

Russia's central bank reacted by saying it could withdraw hard currency trading licences from banks whose dollar purchase orders were much bigger than sales during the "black Tuesday" rouble crisis.

The central bank promised to set up a special commission to check the balance sheets of commercial banks. But bank association head Mr. Yegorov said the Security Council recommendations on rouble crisis contradicted the principles of a market economy.

"Currency sales and purchases are part of any bank's technical operations. We can definitely say there was no plot to bring the rouble down," he said.

Japan economists, business do not see a recovery yet

TOKYO (R) — Japan ratcheted up its view of the economy Tuesday, saying bright signs are continuing to spread, but economists and regional business leaders kept aloof from the central government's optimism.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA), which had to make a humiliating row-back from a premature declaration of recovery in June 1993, said in its latest monthly report that the economy was still on its way to recovery but took its assessment of industrial output one step further.

"(Industrial output) is on a gradual increasing trend," the Economic Planning Agency said. It was a subtle step away from a phrase like "signs of (industrial output) picking up can be seen," used in last month's report.

Industrial production in July-September rose a preliminary 1.6 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 1.5 per cent year-on-year. It is also projected to grow in the October-December quarter, the EPA said.

However, private economists were not so sanguine. "Demand is not keeping up with production," said Nabuya Nemoto, economist

at Nomura Research Institute. "I agree the government is watching how and when private consumption and investment will really ignite, but I wonder whether they will really take off."

Mr. Nemoto said recovery in consumer spending and capital investment may take longer than the government had initially expected, until the April-June quarter of 1995.

Economists said a dip in September household spending and department store showed the economy was slowing, after the temporary effects of the hot summer and tax cuts had waned.

The cautious EPA stopped short of proclaiming a full-fledged economic recovery. "We are not confident enough to say private demand such as consumption and investment has turned stable, staying at a high level. But this does not mean our assessment has retreated," an EPA official said.

But some economists did not agree. "It seems the brightness in the economy is now fading out again. The brightest time was probably two months ago," said Shun-

suke Motani, senior probably two months ago," said Shunsuke Motani, senior economist at Deutsche Bank Research, referring to the strength in consumption then.

"Basing a recovery on an increase in production will be ignoring the real weakness in demand. Shipment is falling at a faster pace and inventories are piling up," Mr. Motani said.

September shipments fell 3.0 per cent while inventories rose by 1.5 per cent month-on-month.

The yen's continuing strength was seen as another factor likely to suppress corporate activity.

Separately, the EPA Tuesday released a report on regional business leaders' views on the economy, which said many regional representatives were still cautious about the outlook as the high yen was hampering corporate profits.

For example, the northern island of Hokkaido, where the fishery industry had long been hit by the yen's appreciation, reported the region was not about to see a recovery soon, although its economy had hit bottom.

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HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 1994
By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Considerable activity today presents an opportunity to investigate both sides of any situation when the Moon moves into Gemini and you consult with experts who have background and experience.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) After a very good start to handling whatever practical matters facing you and organising a sensible plan of action, you need ways to implement initial efforts.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find a partner very receptive to your goals and wishes early so get into policies to be put in motion, then see how to make them work smoothly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Have everything well thought out early on how you are going to perform whatever your duties and you find they will flow easily through daytime.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Being up with the birds gets you ahead of others and with a fine start towards a very successful day, tonight avoid expensive pleasures.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Put that energy to work on doing what will improve conditions at your residence and then do what will bring you comfort and peace in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get out early for those appointments and activities that Birthstone of November: Topaz-Tiger's Eye

are important to your progress and in the evening study, analyze good results following.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are inspired to do something of a worthwhile and practical nature where your property or possessions are concerned so hold to these views.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about what you can do to make a campaign with a confidential advisor to gain the private goals that have the most meaning to you, then follow suggestions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your views are very practical today and if you consult with one of considerable power and influence you can make your mundane dreams come true.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A determined and purposeful friend has some excellent recommendations on how you can best bring into orbit of your influence an insistent desire.

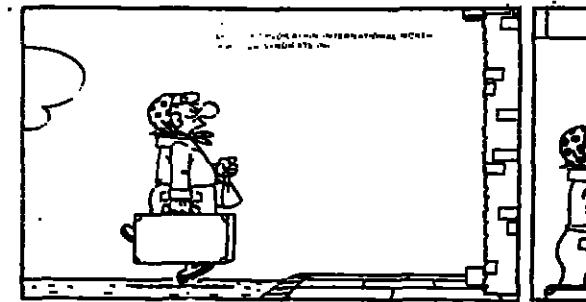
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need to make a start right after breakfast to be more productive in advancing your interests where worldly ambitions may be involved.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new slant or interest can be just what you need now to enhance your success and the good will in which you are held by newcomers you want in your life.

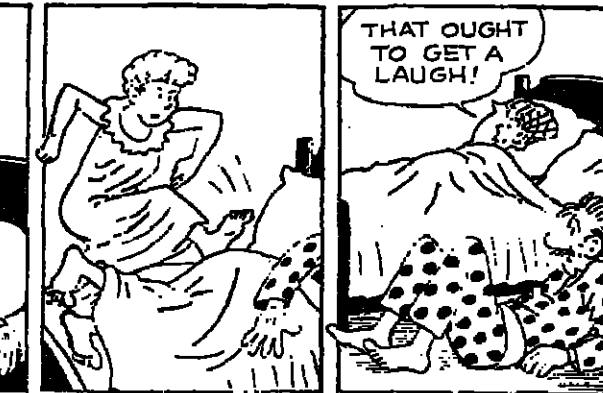
Peanuts



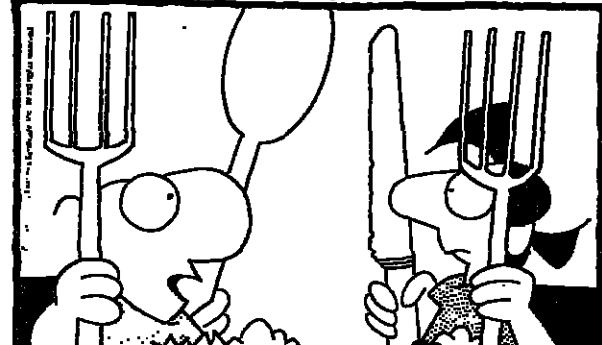
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME. by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLACH
VOPER
GREFOT
ROHRR

Answer: A (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SAUTE CURVE BELFRY DEVICE
Answer: When they watched the steelworkers the crowd was --- RIVETED

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS

- Take away by
- Game
- Feel
- Path
- Brilliant
- Can
- Winner for
- Bus
- Scanned
- Tableland
- Aver
- Knot of wool
- Lathered up
- Clived
- Liters of proof
- Coverly Lion
- Hamlet
- Borge
- Male writer
- Inventor Whitney
- Why
- Beethoven's
- Four
- Wanderer
- Large landmass
- Arctic's org.
- Part of ESP
- Ruddy or Mac
- Kan and Stan
- Heroic poetry
- Woe
- Comed
- Winner for
- Ship's pronoun
- Detrol dud
- Produce one
- Old trust-fund
- English novelist
- Flax

DOWN

- Goya subject
- River to the
- Captain
- 3
- Alon
- Shoe cavity
- Newsp
- City cleric
- Gale
- Sho's state
- Do and re
- Author Key
- Band instrument
- Argued a case
- Librarian
- Blackbird
- Gambler
- Work
- Prosperous

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Nov 7/11/94	Tokyo Close Nov 8/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.0145	1.0155
Deutsche Mark	1.5171	1.5140
Swiss Franc	1.2689	1.2663
French Franc	5.1993	5.1950**
Japanese Yen	97.85	97.23
European Currency Unit	1.2550	1.2564**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.06	5.56	5.67	6.25
Sterling Pound	5.62	5.93	6.37	6.95
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.75	3.93	4.37
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.65	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.18	2.31	2.62
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.85	6.09	6.64

Source: Bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars - 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1164	1.1200
Deutsche Mark	0.4566	0.4589
Swiss Franc	0.5461	0.5488
French Franc	0.1331	0.1358
Japanese Yen	0.7112	0.7146
Dutch Guilder	0.4074	0.4094
Swedish Krona	0.0446	0.0448
Holland Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	0.0446	0.0448

Source: Bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars - 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8210	1.8410
Lebanese Lira	0.040925	0.043350
Saudi Riyal	0.1537	0.1555
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3100	0.3130
Omani Riyal	0.1555	0.1580
Syrian Pound	0.2000	0.2000
Yemeni Riyal	1.7540	1.8100
Yemeni Dinar	2.1675	0.1695
Yemeni Drachma	0.2750	0.3115
Yemeni Pound	1.4250	1.5550

South Korea unveils details of trade opening with North Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea Tuesday unveiled a series of measures to revive and expand trade and other exchanges with communist-ruled North Korea, including an offer to open the border.

The government has decided to launch the first-stage measures to activate inter-Korean economic cooperation... to improve ties between South and North Korea.

Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-Dae said after a cabinet meeting.

The measures, effective immediately, were prompted by a landmark accord Oct. 21 between Washington and Pyongyang and followed President Kim Young-Sam's decision Monday to lift the two-year-old ban on inter-Korean trade and investment.

The package was promptly welcomed by the Seoul exchange, where share prices propelled the Composite Index to a record high of 1,138.75, with companies which have contacts with the North, and construction issues, gaining ground.

Mr. Song said Southern businessmen would now be allowed to visit Pyongyang for investment projects or to invite Northern business partners to the South, as well as ship North industrial equipment for processing-on-commission trade.

Other measures included permission to open South Korean business offices in Pyongyang for the purposes of pilot joint-venture projects involving food and daily necessities.

South Korean firms overseas will be allowed to hire North Korean workers, too, Mr. Song said.

Moreover, he said, South Korea is ready to provide social overhead capital, food and energy to the North, but only when and "if the government judges that bilateral relations have improved."

He proposed opening the demilitarized zone to let South Korean businessmen enter North Korea more easily for business deals but cautioned against a hasty approach.

"There should be no haste or excessive expectations," he said, stressing that the two Koreas needed an investment guarantee agreement and other institutional devices to ensure full-fledged economic exchanges.

"The government hopes these measures will lead to the resumption of inter-Korean talks," which were suspended by the sudden death of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung on July 8, he added.

Inter-Korean business contacts started in January 1989, when Chung Ju-Yung, founder of South Korea's leading Hyundai Group, visited Pyongyang for joint ventures in tourism and construction.

A follow-up business delegation went to North Korea in October 1992 for state-funded pilot projects in an industrial complex near Pyongyang, but hopes for business détente fell flat over North Korea's suspected nuclear programme.

At present, South Korean firms trade with the North amounts to only a paltry \$200 million annually, conducted through third countries.

Analysts said Tuesday the big question now was the North's response to the package.

Said Ko Il-Dong, an analyst at the state-run think-tank, the Korean Development Institute: "Inter-Korean processing-on-commission trade will be activated, but North Korea must also take reciprocal measures."

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) hailed the lifting of restrictions as a boon for its project to develop a free industrial zone in North Korea.

The easing left top business conglomerates here standing in line to resurrect defunct investment projects in the North.

The Samsung Group is out to open an office in Pyongyang, with its eyes on electronics and textiles. Rival Hyundai Group contacted North Korean economic officials in early October — in anticipation of the lifting of the ban — with offers to produce railroad coaches, build ship repair yards and develop tourist sites in the North.

Canadian premier crowns China visits with mass contracts

BEIJING (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Tuesday crowned his visit to China by presiding over the signing of contracts said by officials to be worth \$6.34 billion, including the sale of two nuclear reactors.

In a large ballroom of a deluxe hotel, Mr. Chretien looked on as over 50 Canadian firms signed contracts whose value officials said totalled Canadian \$8.6 billion.

Today marks a new era in Canada-China trade relations, said a delighted Chretien. "This catapults trade with China into new levels."

An official statement said the deals comprised 2.6 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.9 billion) in commercial contracts, 2.5 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.8 billion) in agreements in principle and 3.5 billion Canadian dollars (\$2.6 billion) for the sale of two Candu nuclear reactors.

Bob Nixon, head of atomic energy of Canada Ltd., said at the signing he was "thrilled and delighted" at the contract for the two reactors, to be built at Qinshan, south of Shanghai, next to a Chinese-designed plant already operating there.

"We hope for further sales in the future," Mr. Nixon said, adding that negotiations had taken six months and that the Canadian side would be responsible for two billion Canadian dollars (\$1.47 billion) of the financing.

The contract was made possible by the signing Monday of a nuclear cooperation agreement between China and Canada.

Other large contracts include one for 140 million Canadian dollars (\$103 million) for a petroleum and gas pipeline mill, and a joint venture to produce rare metals and four power plants worth 170 million Canadian dollars (\$125 million), an official statement said.

Other deals involve real estate, gold exploration, a sub-way for the city of Chengdu, a fibreboard plant, a malting barley plant, telecommunications, seafood and sending the Canadian national hockey team to play in China.

If all contracts come to fruition, it will take bilateral trade and investment to an unprecedented level.

In the first nine months of 1994, trade was worth just \$2.048 billion, up 7.7 per cent over the same 1993 period, Chinese figures show.

They also show actual Canadian investment in China at the end of last year at \$260 million, a fraction of total foreign investment, and less than the \$378 million Chinese firms have invested in Canada.

Mr. Chretien is leading the biggest ever Canadian trade delegation, with top executives from 250 firms and nine provincial premiers. He met President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng Monday.

Kenneth Courtis, an economist with Deutsche Bank Capital Markets in Tokyo, said Mr. Chretien was presenting himself as the "chairman of the board of Canada."

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3574/84	Canadian dollar
	1.5118/28	Deutsche marks
	1.0952/57	Dutch guilders
	1.2646/56	Swiss francs
	31.12/16	Belgian francs
	5.1920/40	French francs
	1552.8/3.8	Italian lire
	97.02/12	Japanese yen
	7.3250/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6030/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.9275/25	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6152/62	
One ounce of gold	\$383.20/\$383.50	

"You will see more of this close relationship between politics and business," he said.

"In Asia, capitalism is relationship capitalism. Politics are close to business. This kind of large-scale delegation can open doors," he added.

IBM, Apple and Motorola announce common standard for PCs

NEW YORK (AFP) — Computer giants IBM and Apple joined high-tech company Motorola Monday to announce that they had agreed on a common standard for personal computers, ending a longstanding problem of incompatibility.

The agreement covers personal computers using the PowerPC microprocessor developed by the three companies. The first of the new machines are scheduled to come on the market in 1996.

Experts however described the announcement as "too little, too late," arguing that the triumvirate would not succeed in dethroning the Microsoft-Intel tandem in the computer market.

Microsoft Windows is by far the world's most popular personal computer software system, present in more than 80 per cent of current models, compared with 10 per cent for Mac OS.

Michael Kwatinetz, an analyst with the investment firm Paine Webber, quoted research figures predicting that 160 to 170 million personal computers will use Windows software by 1996.

"Just take a look at the figures. I don't understand why everybody is so excited about it," commented Sanjiv Hingorani, an analyst with the investment firm Nomura.

The new computers would be able to use software designed for both IBM and Apple systems, which are currently incompatible, in a deal designed to break Microsoft's stranglehold on the computer operating system software market.

"We are creating a new industry standard — one whose entrance means greater value and performance for customers, greater opportunities for developers and greater competition for the industry," the three companies said in a statement.

"The objective is to achieve 100 per cent compatibility with current PowerPC-based hardware and software application products, while creating a new base standard that offers advanced function future capability," the statement said.

PowerPC will enable the companies to offer personal computers which could use Apple's Mac OS operating software, IBM's OS/2 and AIX and Microsoft's Windows.

The three companies said that "each company intends to take technical and financial responsibility" for bringing the new system onto the market in its own computers.

But they also said that the agreement covers only personal computers capable of operating software, and not the software itself.

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Hussein, Wihdat fight for lead

First leg of competition concludes Friday

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first leg of the 1st division soccer championship will be concluded Nov. 11 when the 11th week of the competition kicks off Wednesday with Al Hussein leading the standings on goal difference.

The upcoming week's six matches are important for all teams to improve their record, however the most vital match will be Al Hussein's clash with titleholders Al Faisali.

The titleholders are now in fourth place behind Al Ramtha and Al Wihdat.

In another important clash, Al Ramtha will have a solid chance to maintain third place going into the second leg if they score a win in their match against newcomers Shabbab Al Hussein.

Al Wihdat who lost the lead after scoring three consecutive draws will meet Al Arabi who have now dropped to eighth place and nearing the last four threatened with relegation.

Fifth and sixth place Al Ahli and Al Jazireh will

which seems to be good enough compared to the other three newcomers who are languishing in the last three places and seem destined to be relegated once again.

Elsewhere in the league, Al Qadissieh will try to score a win over last placed

Al Jeel still have the worst record with only one point in the standings and a 6-26 scoring average.

Judging by the results of the past week Al Ahli are steadily improving their form, defeating Al Arabi 2-0 and Al Ramtha 1-0 while drawing with former champions Al Wihdat 0-0.

Al Jazireh have also scored more wins so far than the total of wins they scored in past seasons!

The 10th week witnessed the lowest number of goals scored at 10 compared to 22 in the 7th week, and the lowest profit from ticket sales probably because weather conditions greatly affected most matches.

Nevertheless Al Wihdat-Ramtha match set a new record in the season's ticket sales so far, netting JD 13,500, while Al Jeel-Karmel match netted the second lowest so far at JD 8!

Jordan Soccer League

both are aiming for victory. Al Jazireh, an often lowly team on the brink of relegation in most seasons, scored five consecutive wins during the past weeks enabling them to maintain a top five standing.

Newcomers Kuftsum who had scored impressive results at the beginning of the competition, face Al Karmel hoping to score a victory that will maintain their halfway standing

Al Jeel and give their fans a glimmer of hope after their declining form this season.

Al Qadissieh had finished fourth last year. With only six matches left in the first leg, Al Hussein now lead with 17 points and have the best scoring average at 30-10.

Al Wihdat are the only unbeaten team so far and also have 17 points, but one of the lowest scoring averages at 11-2.

Bench players lead Bulls to comeback victory

CHICAGO (R) — Toni Kukoc scored 19 of his career-high 28 points in the fourth quarter Monday to rally the Chicago Bulls to a 98-83 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Bulls trailed by as many as 16 points in the second-half before using a 14-4 run to start the fourth quarter and take their first lead of the game, 76-73, with just under nine minutes left.

Chicago outscored Philadelphia 22-10 the rest of the way.

"I think we had a pretty good second half," Kukoc said. "I felt good out there. We played good defense in the fourth quarter. It gave me a lot of confidence to be out there."

Chicago head coach Phil Jackson praised his players coming off the bench, who outscored Philadelphia's reserves 62-13.

"You have to give credit to the bench for the energy they were able to provide from the third quarter on," Jackson said. We salvaged a game that maybe we shouldn't have won."

Scottie Pippen added 22 points and 10 rebounds and Jo Jo English scored 11 for Chicago, who improved to 2-1.

Jeff Malone had 25 points and Weatherspoon chipped in with 20 points for Philadelphia, who remained winless at 0-3.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 28 points and nine rebounds, and Walter Bond scored eight points during a 20-6 tear that opened the fourth quarter as the Jazz beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-86.

The Jazz held an 81-73 lead after three quarters and Bond, who scored 14 points in the game, keyed the game-breaking run, which gave Utah a 101-79 advantage with 3:22 to play.

Prior to the game, the winless Hawks (0-3) traded forward-center Kevin Willis and a first-round draft choice to the Miami Heat for guard Steve Smith, forward Grant Long and a second-round pick. None of the players played in the game.

Stacey Augmon led the Hawks (0-3) with 24 points, while Andrew Lang had 17 and Ken Norman had 15. Atlanta were within one point with 3:40 left in the third quarter before Utah (2-1) kicked into gear.

In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 23 points and David Robinson added 18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds.



Chicago Bulls forward Corie Blount (left) loses the ball under pressure from Charlotte Hornets forward Kenny Gattison in one of the NBA's opening match (AFP photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
3 TANNAN HIRSH
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Both vulnerable, West deals.

NORTH

♠ 6 4 3 2

♥ 2

♦ A K Q J 9

♣ A

WEST

♠ A

♥ 9 8 5 4 3

♦ 8 6 5 4 3

♣ J 10 9 7

♠ 6 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 10 6

♥ 7 6

♦ A K Q

♣ 10 8 7

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♠ Pass Pass 1 ♠

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠

Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Water dripping on a stone will eventually start to wear it away. In the same way, even seemingly impenetrable trump holdings can be eroded by constant attack, unless you erect a protective barrier.

South doubled in the balancing position (the only way to announce a good hand), then introduced the

spade suit when North showed invitational values. North's three trumps, singleton and good suit made the raise to game automatic.

West attacked with three rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing the last. It seemed the trump ace was the only other loser, so declarer banged out the king of spades.

In with the ace of spades, West wasted no time in playing a fourth heart. Declarer was forced to ruff and now West held a long trump for the setting trick.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, say the wise men. Assuring the contract required no advanced technique on declarer's part, just a touch of common sense.

After ruffing the third heart, it costs declarer nothing to cash two rounds of diamonds, discarding the last heart. Now, when West wins the first trump, there is nothing the defender can do to harm the contract.

A fourth heart can be ruffed in dummy. If East overruffs, so does declarer. Either way, declarer can draw all the trumps and take the rest of the tricks with minor-suit winners.

Australian Open organisers set to eclipse Venus

MELBOURNE (AFP) — American prodigy Venus Williams is likely to be prevented from playing in the Australian Open, her first Grand Slam event.

Williams made her professional debut at the age of 14 in California last month. She joined the WTA Tour before the enforcement of new rules applying an age limit of 16 on the circuit.

The American has indicated she wants a wild card for the New South Wales Open, the lead-up Sydney event to January's Australian Open.

Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday that while he had not received any request for a special entry for Williams, he could not support granting one.

Tennis Australia is keen to support the recent age ruling of the Women's Tennis Council.

McNamee said: "Tennis Australia was a party to formulating the new rules regarding young girls playing professional tennis and it would be difficult for us to give her a wild card."

NSW Open organisers are keen for Williams to play in Sydney. But if Tennis Australia, rejects an Open wild card there is little hope she would travel to Australia just to play in one state event.

Fellow 14-year-old sensation Martina Hingis of Switzerland and 18-year-old Jennifer Capriati, starting her comeback this week, are likely to play in the Australian Open.

The new rules, which come into effect on Jan. 1, do not apply to Hingis, who has been on the circuit long enough to earn the points to give her a direct entry into the Open.

Leading women's rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)

4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
5. Mary Pierce (France)
6. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)

7. Lindsay Davenport (U.S.)
8. Kimiko Date (Japan)
9. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)

10. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)

13. Anke Huber (Germany)
14. Amy Frazier (U.S.)
15. Ivan Majoli (Croatia)

16. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
17. Brenda Scholtz (Netherlands)
18. Lori McNeil (U.S.)

19. Zina Garrison Jackson (U.S.)
20. Sabine Hack (Germany)

Capriati set to return Wednesday

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Jennifer Capriati worked out on a practice court Monday in preparation for her return to the WTA Tour, a match against Germany's Anke Huber.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement. She has denied interview requests.

Capriati, 18, quit the pro-circuit after a first-round loss in last year's U.S. Open. She was arrested for shoplifting a year ago and was charged in May with marijuana possession, following which she underwent drug rehabilitation.

Now she is returning serves for 30 minutes at a time with new coach Jose Higueras, showing no signs of burnout or personal problems.

"I'm not even thinking about winning or losing," her statement said. "Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati wrote that she has been in serious training since August and had planned to return last month before a muscle pull set back her timetable.

"In regards to after this

tournament and next year, I don't know," the statement read. "I'm just going to take things day by day."

Capriati's WTA debut at age 13 and struggles since helped prompt the tour to adopt a 16-year-old minimum age limit starting next season. But an opponent of such limitations is Meilen Tu, a 16-year-old who upset South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 Monday.

"There are a lot of mature 14-year-olds out there," she said. "If you are independent, you look at things a different way and not let what people say bother you. People can be really cruel, especially when you lose."

Krajicek crashes out in first round

In Antwerp, Belgium, hard-hitting Dutchman Richard Krajicek succumbed 7-5, 7-6 to unseeded Frenchman Olivier Delaire to put his name on the first-round casualty list at the European Community Tennis Championship Monday.

The Dutch fourth seed, who won the event in 1993, produced 22 aces but the rest

of his game was well below par and included a dramatic number of unforced errors. "It was a very bad match. I played very badly. It's never fun to end a year like this," said Krajicek, whose plans for the rest of 1994 include a cross country ski holiday in Switzerland.

"I had a few small opportunities (to take control) of the match but I blew them," added the Dutch giant, who has played six weeks in a row, played Delaire before, lost the first set tie-break 7-3 and the second 7-4.

Fifth-seeded Jason Stoltenberg also fell by the wayside, the 24-year-old Australian finding Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman in inspired form as he went down 7-5, 6-3.

Bjorkman's reward is a match against Italian Renzo Furlan, who won two tie-breaks to edge qualifier Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 7-6, 7-6.

Defending champion and top seed Pete Sampras makes his first appearance against Belgian Johan Van Herck.

Second seed Michael Stich and third seed Stefan Edberg did not play until Wednesday.

Cowboys clinch sixth straight;

Bengals, Steelers win without touchdowns

DALLAS (AFP) — Reigning Super Bowl champion Dallas set the stage for a showdown with arch-rival San Francisco by rolling to victory Monday night.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 162 yards and two touchdowns while quarterback Troy Aikman threw for one score and ran for another as Dallas ripped the New York Giants 38-10.

The reigning National Football League (NFL) champions won their third straight game and raised their record to a league-best 8-1 entering their showdown Sunday at San Francisco (7-2).

The 49ers have lost to Dallas in the NFL semi-finals each of the past two seasons, giving the Cowboys their stiffest playoff opposition on

their way to league titles.

Smith rushed a team-record 35 times, staying in the contest despite a 35-3 Dallas lead in order to pad his yardage totals. The three-time NFL rushing champion trails Detroit's Barry Sanders in this year's yardage race.

Dallas moved ahead 14-3 half-time and took advantage of three Giants' turnovers in the third quarter for 21 points, condemning New York to a sixth straight defeat.

Aikman completed 19 of 24 passes for 241 yards and rushed three yards for a touchdown. Moose Johnston added the final touchdown on a nine-yard run.

Before reserves played most of the final quarter, Dallas had 424 total yards to 75 for the Giants, who

reached the end zone in the final minutes when backup Kent Graham threw a nine-yard touchdown pass to Howard Cross.

Seven of the 26 National Football League teams that played Sunday did not score a touchdown.

But two of them won, both in overtime.

Cincinnati got its first win by beating Seattle 20-17 on six field goals and a safety.

Pittsburgh beat Houston 12-9 in a score that was highly popular last season, when field goals were the norm.

The other non-scorers: Tampa Bay (6); San Diego (9); New England (6) and the Raiders (3). And Arizona scored a meaningless TD with 1:51 left in its 17-7 loss to Buddy Ryan's return to Philadelphia.

Panathinaikos to sack star Gallis

ATHENS (R) — Nick Gallis, the idol of Greek basketball and one of Europe's best guards for a decade, will soon be sacked by his club Panathinaikos for failing to play for three weeks, a club official said Tuesday.

"Panathinaikos has decided to proceed with ending Nick Gallis' contract because he has abstained with no excuse from his athletic commitments," the official told Reuters.

Gallis, 37, who led Panathinaikos to the European Champion Clubs' final four tournament in Tel Aviv last April, has not played since mid-October after a row with his coach Costas Politis.

The official said he would be dismissed within the next 10 days.

Gallis' absence has caused problems to the club who

have performed badly in both the Greek and European Club Championships. Politis resigned last week and Panathinaikos President Pavlos Yannakopoulos was expected to name his replacement soon.

Gallis, dubbed "goldfinger" by the press, returned to Greece from the United States in 1979 and took Greek basketball from obscurity to winning the European Championship in 1987.

Yannakopoulos has paid him a record 900 million drachmas (\$3.8 million) over the past three years, more than any other basketball player in Greece.

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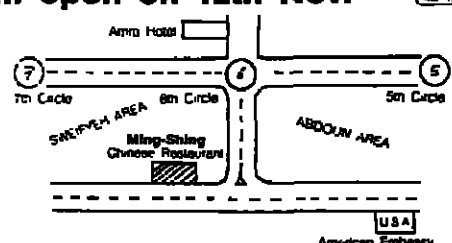
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Arab Chess Championship opens in Irbid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 10th Arab Chess two-week competition, which will crown the championship opened Tuesday at Yarmouk men's and women's Arab chess champions. University under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, chairman of the Arab Chess Federation. Fifteen countries are taking part in the Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Jordan.

Jordan likely to be in majors next year

CHICAGO (AFP) — If there is a major league baseball season next year, expect former National Basketball Association star Michael Jordan to be in the White Sox. That's the word from Larry Schmittou, owner of the White Sox, who said the team is planning to sign Jordan. "I'm sure their goal is for him to be a September call-up next year," Schmittou said. That likely would put Jordan in the middle of a pennant race, provided there are battles for playoff positions. Owners killed the players' strike after a players' strike that began Aug. 12 lasted a month. The dispute over salary limits on players has not kept Jordan from playing in the White Sox. In fact, the long layoff for the major leagues could allow many to close the gap keeping them from the top.

Security a high priority at Sydney Olympics

CANBERRA (AFP) — Security planning for the 2000 Sydney Olympics is well under way with the government aware of the terrorism potential during the Games. Federal justice minister Duncan Kerr said Tuesday. "There were all the tragedies in Munich which rained home to everyone concerned that such events can be the focus for groups who wish to use them to gain publicity for their cause." A radical Palestinian group killed 11 Israeli hostages at the 1972 Munich Olympics. "All the security resources of the Commonwealth and the states that are directed to this are seeking to make the correct judgment now, and that will continue to change as we evaluate where threats may emerge," Kerr said. The counter-intelligence service, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), said in its annual report it would set up "a dedicated Olympics management and reporting structure" to ensure police and other forces had accurate information. Kerr said security officials were receiving full co-operation from organisers of the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. "We are making sure that

all who are involved in security arrangements for the Olympic Games are able to take advantage of the learning curve that occurs out of those (1996) Olympics," Kerr said. ASIO said there had been significant developments in international co-operation between security and intelligence services over the past two decades aimed at "ensuring the successful staging of major games and the safety of athletes competing." It cited the example of the Seoul Olympics in 1988, when 36 countries contributed to a database of 16,000 known terrorists and 600 terrorist organisations. The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) plans to provide personal security for every member of the Olympic family, which comprises International Olympic Committee members and other senior sports and political figures. "Close personal protection" — bodyguards — would be provided "as required" while a secure perimeter system using the "latest electronic system of access" would protect venues, a SOCOG spokesman said.

Newcastle, Forest play to scoreless draw

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Mark Crossley's fingertip save with nine minutes to play Monday preserved a scoreless draw for Nottingham Forest against first-place Newcastle in the English Premier League. Crossley leaped to push over the crossbar Peter Beardsley's sharp header off John Beresford's free kick. It was the best save in a match that saw both Newcastle's Paul Kitson and Forest's Stan Collymore miss open scoring chances in the second half. The draw increased Newcastle's lead to three points over second-place Blackburn in the 22-team league. Forest, breaking a two-game losing streak, moved into a points tie with third-place Manchester United, five points off the lead. The Newcastle attack once again suffered from the absence of Andy Cole, the team's leading scorer, who is sidelined with shin splints. Ruel Fox took over Cole's mantle as the team's most aggressive player on offense, and he set up Kitson with a perfect cross in the 58th minute. Kitson, with an empty left side of the net just six metres in front of him, meekly dragged his shot wide. Collymore, Forest's leading scorer with nine goals, returned after a two-game layoff with a hamstring injury. He had only the goalkeeper to beat after he shook off defender Darren Peacock in the Newcastle box in the 70th minute, but chipped the shot high and wide. The result was a disappointment for the crowd of 22,102 at city ground, which was expecting plenty of scoring between two teams that



Arsenal's goal-keeper David Seaman is in full flight as he makes a dramatic save during their match against Sheffield Wednesday. The match ended in a goalless draw (AFP photo)

had tallied 79 goals between them this season.

Everton defend decision to sack Walker

Everton Chairman Peter Johnson defended his decision to sack manager Mike Walker here Tuesday but made no mention of his possible successor. Walker's 10-month reign at Goodison Park was abruptly ended by a short statement from the club. Johnson said: "It is with sincere regret that I have to

announce that Everton Football Club has relieved manager Mike Walker of his duties. This decision has been taken after careful consideration and having regard to the club's playing record over the past 35 games.

"It was decided that it would be irresponsible for the directors to let the situation continue and they believe a change to be beneficial for the club. "Having spent 40 years in the top division, I believe all supporters will agree it is imperative that their club maintains its position." Although the question of a caretaker replacement was not raised by Johnson, former boss Howard Kendall is available having recently returned from a spell managing in Greece. Kendall was at the club from 1981-87, winning the league championship, FA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup and then returned for a less successful second between 1990-93. Everton have spent plenty

on new players since Walker's arrival from Norwich 10 months ago, with Walker investing three million pounds in Nigerian Daniel Amokachi, who has scored only one goal in 11 games, and 2.2 million pounds in former Tottenham midfielder Vinny Samways. Walker won only six out of 35 league and cup matches during his reign at Everton and though the Merseyside club won their first game of the season last week they remain bottom of the premiership.

Becker, Agassi react to tennis rule change

PARIS (AFP) — Boris Becker, who has been criticised by officials and organisers to stop tinkering with tennis. "I don't believe there is a crisis in the sport... or that the game has become too fast... or that it lacks personalities." "I don't understand all the fuss everybody is making," said this week's \$2.25 million French Indoor Open where he reached the quarter-finals. "I don't think tennis has a problem — but if it has, it is an exposure." "Changing the rules and trying something new week in and week out doesn't make sense any better or stronger." "All it does is make the spectators and the players more nervous."

Becker, 27 later this month, also disagreed that there were fewer characters in the game. "It's true that we had great personalities in the past. But we've got great personalities in the game today too." "And all this talk that the game is too fast is nonsense. Tennis, like any other sport, goes through ups and downs. We had a boom in the 80s until the beginning of the 90s. Becker, who has risen to third in the world rankings and qualified for next month's elite eight-player ATP world championship finals in Frankfurt, remains critical of the ITF's decision to impose a 30-second limit between points, instead of the existing 25-second limit, at the Grand Slam events.

Estée Lauder launches new 'double colour' lipstick

NOTHING IS the way it seems. This is true for promises, politics, travel brochures, other people's love affairs and colour. The sky may appear to be blue but only because miles of atmosphere, sun, reflective clouds, whatever is on the ground at the moment you're looking and the quality of the air have gotten in the way of the inky space that's really up there. This is true for your lipstick, too. What's news now is Estée Lauder's Double Colour Everlasting Lipstick which takes control of all the otherwise arbitrary elements that make us see a particular colour. In effect, Lauder chroma-technology has created a micro-atmosphere in a stick for an extraordinarily beautiful range of colours and special effects. For instance, Glamour Red — it needs no more description than its name — begins with a sophisticated composition of pigments that make it appear red. In colour theory, this is called its local colour. How we perceive it is affected by its



tonal colour — the effects of light and shadow — and its environment — everything that's going on around it. All of this is influenced by the colour and intensity of the light, and the atmosphere (crisp dry air, tropical humidity or, we hope not, a smoky room). New Double Colour Everlasting Lipstick incorporates all the most beautiful light, shadow and atmosphere into itself so that it is holographic — truly three-dimensional — and translucent. Micro-mirrors bounce interior colour waves among themselves for an effect that is uniquely reflective.

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Democrats sweat as Americans vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats' low expectations were matched by Republican confidence as Americans in every state voted Tuesday in a mid-term election critical to President Bill Clinton's political future.

The American people were deciding on whether to give the nation a sharp change of direction. Worried Democrats — the party of activist government — feared they could lose control of the Senate, and Republicans reached for control of the House of Representatives, too.

Turnout among more than 175 million eligible voters was key — little more than a third were expected to vote — as a dozen or more big races hinged on which party could get its supporters to the polls.

After a campaign of surly attack ads, record spending and cross-party endorsements, voters were deciding 35 of 100 Senate seats, all 435 House slots and 36 governorships, with voting in every state. Polls opened as early as 6 a.m. Eastern standard time (1100 GMT) in some states.

President Clinton, whose own unpopularity has been a drag for his party in many parts of the country, made a series of last-minute radio pitches for Democratic candidates Tuesday, complaining about the sour tone of many races.

"This is not the time for negativity," he said. "This is the time to be upbeat but aggressive in tackling our problems and meeting our opportunities."

"Don't turn back," he pleaded with voters in an exhaustive Minnesota-to-Delaware election eve swing before returning to Washington Monday night.

Everyone agreed that the uneasy mood of the voters favoured the Republicans. For Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party, the question was whether they could limit their losses.

Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party has held sway over the

House for 40 years and the Senate since 1986.

Even if the Republicans fall short of winning both houses of Congress in Tuesday's balloting, they felt sure of blocking much of the Clinton agenda for the next two years of his presidency.

Some long-time liberal leaders of the Democratic Party — Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Governor Mario Cuomo of New York and House Speaker Thomas Foley of Washington state — sweated out challenges by an untested generation of candidates.

Among the political newcomers were Jeb and George W. Bush, former President Bush's sons who are running to oust incumbent Democratic governors in Florida and Texas; Iran-contra figure Oliver North, who was running for the Senate in Virginia; and Mitt Romney, Mr. Kennedy's opponent, the son of a former Michigan governor.

"We are on the verge of a Republican resurgence," said Roger Stone, a Republican strategist.

Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia conceded that his party was at risk of heavy losses, saying the Democrats' chances of keeping Senate control were "no better than 50-50." Republicans needed to win seven Democratic seats to take control of the Senate.

Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, predicted Tuesday on CBS Television that Republican Senate candidates would gain about 11 Senate seats.

The Republicans needed to take 40 Democratic House seats to win control, installing the combative Newt Gingrich as speaker.

Americans, in off-year elections, traditionally stay away from the polls in droves. Four years ago, 67 million voted, but 110 million did not. Few experts are predicting much more than 1990's 36 per cent turnout.

Crown Prince, French admiral discuss peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday received at the Royal Court French Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade and a delegation accompanying him.

Discussion at the meeting focused on Jordanian-French relations and France's role supporting the Middle East peace process and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai.

Europe's key role in developing the Middle East and European-Mediterranean relations were also the main issues under discussion Tuesday in another meeting between Prince Hassan and the director of the North-South relations department at the European Union (EU).

Prince Hassan discussed with the EU official plans for the stages following the Casablanca conference on economic development and the follow-up Amman conference which will be held next year.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday meets with French Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade (Petra photo)

France launches crackdown on Islamic militants

PARIS (Agencies) — Police detained nearly 100 suspected Muslim fundamentalists early on Tuesday in a major crackdown across France on a support network for Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) guerrilla organisation, officials said.

The GIA is the most radical movement, which rejects any dialogue with the military authorities and has claimed responsibility for killing many of the 70 foreigners murdered in Algeria in the last two years.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said police uncovered an Islamic fundamentalist network with worldwide links after the raids earlier in the day in which arms were seized and 95 people arrested.

Mr. Pasqua said the raids demonstrated the existence of "highly motivated" fundamentalists carrying out or planning "terrorist or underground activities from our territory or other European countries."

Hundreds of French police swooped at dawn Tuesday against Islamic fundamentalists allegedly linked to the GIA, seizing weapons and explosives and carrying out the arrests.

Mr. Pasqua told a press conference that the GIA network had links with other groups in Germany, Canada, Britain, Italy and the Netherlands and also had branches in the French cities of Lille, Marseille and Lyon.

He said that in a raid by a hooded commando of elite police at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, south of Paris, Tuesday, 12 assault rifles, three shotguns, two automatic pistols and grenades were seized.

Mr. Pasqua added that police also found detonators and chemicals which could be used to make explosives.

The GIA has claimed the killings of most of the 69 foreigners, including 21 French nationals, murdered in Algeria as part of a violent campaign to topple Algeria's military-led government by various Islamic groups.

Mr. Pasqua declined to give further details about the purported foreign ramifications of the group.

Asked if arrests were to be expected abroad, he replied: "I don't know."

About 300 police were mobilised for the raids which began at 6:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) after six months of surveillance operations.

Police said they had staked out a Koranic school based at Orly, south of Paris, and a sports and social club known as the Educational Association of the Muslims of France.

Its leaders allegedly dealt in drugs, false identity papers and weapons to provide finance and support for the GIA, police said.

A Paris flat that purportedly served as a hideout for GIA members heading for Algeria to join anti-government guerrillas or returning from there was also turned over, police said.

At Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, police wearing black commando uniforms and balaclavas to conceal their identities raided a run-down house in an area of the town inhabited by immigrants and arrested seven men in their 20s, some of them Europeans and some of them North African origin.

Mr. Pasqua personally supervised the preparations for the operations during a series of meetings attended by Paris police chief Philippe Massoni and senior police and security agents, police said.

Blasts in Tehran as Iran-Iraq tension rises

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran Tuesday accused its main opposition group of setting off two bomb explosions in impoverished, crowded south Tehran, killing as many as three people and possibly wounding scores of others.

But the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq said government agents planted the bombs to implicate the rebels and justify more attacks against their bases across the border.

Baghdad meanwhile threatened Tehran with military retaliation if events escalated following a recent attack on a Mujahadeen camp inside Iraq.

"In opting for peace, Iraq has not given up its arms of deterrence against all those who think to violate its sovereignty and security," warned Najj Hadithi, Iraq's deputy culture and information minister.

Mr. Hadithi, quoted by the Babel daily newspaper, added: "The missile attack, in response to the offer of peace from Iraq to its neighbour, is in keeping with the actions of the rulers" of Tehran.

Iraq protested to the United Nations about a missile attack Saturday on a camp of the Mujahadeen, the main Iranian armed opposition group, just inside Iraq.

The attack, which caused heavy damage but no casualties according to the Mujahadeen, has not been confirmed by Iran, although it said its border guards attacked another Mujahadeen camp near Baghdad in retaliation.

for a rebel raid. Iraq's protest note to the U.N. said it "reserves the right to defend itself against this Iranian aggression with appropriate means and at the right time."

In return Tehran protested to Baghdad over its support for the Mujahadeen, which it accused of Tuesday's bombing.

Iranian media said blasts occurred Monday night, killing three people and wounding scores of others.

In a later report, Tehran Radio quoted an unidentified security official as saying only two people were killed and no one was injured.

The official said some clues had been found in the investigation, and that his men were "pursuing those responsible."

Sources, knowledgeable about Tehran said casualties could be much higher. The bombs exploded in poor, cramped suburbs where houses and shops are packed wall-to-wall, and cars are lined bumper-to-bumper during the evening rush-hour.

IRNA quoted witnesses as saying the first explosion was in the Padayian Eslam neighbourhood in southwestern Tehran. The bomb was planted inside a trash can and killed two passengers in a car parked next to it.

The second bomb went off at Chit-Sazi intersection, killing a passerby, it said.

Chit-Sazi is one of the most crowded intersections in southern Tehran.

Israel insists cholera has broken out in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli health ministry insisted Tuesday that cholera had broken out in the self-rule Gaza Strip and that a ban on fruit and vegetable imports was justified.

In Gaza City, Palestinian Health Minister Riyad Zaanun strongly denied the claim. "There is no cholera," he told AFP. "A woman and four children have been admitted to hospital after drinking polluted water four or five days ago."

"If it was cholera we could have had hundreds of cases in five days."

However, Boaz Levy, deputy director of Israel's health ministry, told reporters: "We think there is cholera there."

"I spoke to Riyad Zaanun and they have 20 suspected cases of cholera and five microbiologically verified."

Mr. Levy said no food would be imported from the Strip "until this is clarified."

He urged Israelis to wash carefully all produce from Gaza which might still be on the market.

"We offered to help the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) in order to contain this disease and we are in close contact."

Palestinian agriculture officials said the ban, imposed Monday night, would cost \$300,000 a day.

Aata Abu Kirsh, Palestinian deputy agriculture minister, said the ban was unjustified.

"There are cases of poison-

ing in some areas which could be a result of rotten or expired food entering Gaza from Israel illegally, such as frozen meat," he said.

He said the health ministry examined all fruit and vegetables and "found the samples free of any disease."

"We have stopped the import of all agricultural produce from the autonomy area," Rina Versano of the Israeli health ministry's national food service said.

She said that the ban, which also covers Gaza produce going to the West Bank, was issued Monday night after seven Palestinians in Gaza were diagnosed with cholera. The potentially fatal intestinal disease is usually caused by food or water being contaminated by feces.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar Tibi, director of primary health care in Gaza, said there were 18 patients in an isolation ward at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City with symptoms of the disease but that blood test results were not final.

Mohammad Rayis, deputy director of Gaza's agriculture ministry, argued that Israel was punishing all Gaza farmers, instead of testing actual produce for signs of the disease.

"Now are farmers have nowhere to sell their produce," he said.

Gaza has been permitted to export produce to Israel since achieving autonomy by the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord last May.

Security net tightened around Diana

LONDON (AFP) — Security around Princess Diana is being tightened following her decision to resume a schedule of public engagements next year, sources said Monday.

Princess Diana, who usually drives her own car to the Chelsea Harbour gym in west London where she works out, was driven Monday in a car with darkened windows, surrounded by police and followed by an escort vehicle. The Sunday Times reported Princess Diana, who a year ago said she was giving up most of her public life because she couldn't take the attention of the press, would be returning to participate in the 125th anniversary of the British Red Cross in 1995.

Exercise better than TV for bad moods

WASHINGTON (R) — Anyone trying to chase away the blues would be better off going for a run than settling down in front of a television set, a study showed Monday.

"We found that people like to take active mood management," said psychologist Robert Newman of California State University at Long Beach, a co-author of the study in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. The study found that exercise, be it an aerobic class or going for a jog, made a big difference in shaking off a bad mood, fighting anxiety and reducing tension, said Mr. Newman, who plays tennis when he has a bad day.

Watching television was not a good way to cheer up, the team found. Listening to music was an effective mood-changing strategy. Hobbies, reading, shopping and even household chores worked for some people. Men were more likely to turn to alcohol or drugs, women were more likely to talk to someone, eat or smoke. The study started by asking 102 college students to list how they fight off a bad mood. Their answers were used to do further research involving 308 people of all ages. Twenty-six psychotherapists were also asked to rate strategies that they thought helped change moods.

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China smashes porno ring, arrests 60

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese authorities have smashed a nationwide pornographic publishing ring, arresting 60 people across the country in one of the largest cases of its kind, a publication watchdog spokesman said Tuesday.

The arrests took place last week as police in various provinces investigated a sweep of the ring's members, who have been charged with printing and selling more than 400,000 copies of some 50 varieties of pornographic literature, the State Press and Publication Administration spokesman said. The mastermind behind the illegal network was identified as Wang Chenggeng, 33, from the central province of Hunan, who made use of a private bookstore to create "cultural rubbish," the Xinhua News Agency quoted the spokesman as saying. A total of 70 people were suspected to be involved in the ring.

Kids wreck export cars in rampage

HAMBURG, Germany (AFP) — Four youngsters aged between 11 and 15 demolished 70 cars ready for export from a parking lot in the northern German port of Hamburg overnight, police said Monday. After breaking into the parking lot, the youths stole the cars' keys from a caravan and wrecked the vehicles by playing bumper cars, causing hundreds of thousands of marks (dollars) of damage. A neighbour alerted police who caught two of the miscreants, aged 11 and 13, while the other two fled. Police said they were aware of their identity. A police spokesman said they handed over the two boys, who had caught to their parents and could not charge them because of their age. The spokesman said the parents could face a civil action by the car exporter's insurers.

Police kill Cairo militant; guard killed in south

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police on Tuesday killed a suspected Muslim militant in Cairo, while suspected militants shot dead a civilian guard and wounded a policeman in southern Egypt.

Police said Hassan Salah Hassan died in a shootout during a raid on his home in the eastern Cairo district of Mokkattam.

The militant was believed to be involved in the killing in April of Raouf Khairat, an intelligence officer in the security forces, police said.

The raid Tuesday was part of a crackdown on 15 militant hideouts in Cairo, Giza province, Buheira province in the Delta and Alexandria, police said. Twenty-seven people, all followers of Hassan, were arrested and weapons including grenades seized.

Tokyo conference urges better Japan-GCC ties

From Rana Hussein in Tokyo THE FIRST Japan-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) business conference concluded Tuesday evening after adopting a "Tokyo declaration" and calling for better mutual trade understanding between GCC countries and Japan.

The Tokyo declaration was based on the agreement reached at the third round of Japan-GCC consultations held in Tokyo in June 1993.

"The adoption of the declaration represent a turning point in the relationship between Japan and the GCC because it will open the door for Japanese investment in the GCC region," Abdul Aziz Al Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity of Saudi Arabia, told a press conference marking the end of the three-day conference.

"What we are trying to emphasise is that the time had come for diversification in GCC exports from simple raw materials to a wide range of value added goods," Mr. Zamil added.

In order to achieve such diversification, he maintained, the GCC countries see a necessity to improve the current industry structure by inviting more direct Japanese investment and technology transfer.

Mr. Zamil, who headed the GCC delegation to the

conference emphasised the role of the private sector, "which should become more involved to enhance trade industry and investments for both sides."

Yoshihisa Ojimi, chairman of the organising committee who also addressed reporters, stressed the necessity of increasing direct Japanese investment in the GCC countries.

"As Japanese investment overseas grows, more opportunities will arise for joint venture with GCC, and the increased deregulation of the Japanese market will lead to more exporting capability for GCC countries," said Mr. Ojimi.

More than 400 people from Japan and GCC participated in the business conference.

The GCC delegation consisted of 200 businessmen and government officials from six GCC countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. The Japanese side was represented by government officials and economic leaders.

The first-of-its-kind gathering aimed at promoting mutual understanding and the strengthening of economic ties and technological cooperation between Japan and the GCC countries in the private sector.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norwegian aid money for self-rule missing

OSLO (AFP) — More than \$120,000 in Norwegian aid for the Gaza Strip and Jericho has gone missing and a U.N. official has been suspended, the Norwegian foreign ministry said Monday. Ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnen, confirming a report on Norwegian television, called it a "serious" incident. The news programme, Dagsrevyen said the money was part of \$28.7 million in aid that Norway earmarked for a farm project in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, autonomous areas under the autonomy agreement reached last year. Around \$121,000 vanished somewhere between U.N. headquarters in New York and a U.N. refugee office in Vienna, the news report said, adding that a U.N. official at the Vienna office was suspended Monday. Mr. Havnen said Norwegian consultants were involved in the agricultural project. He said an investigation has been opened and that lawyers for both Norway and the United Nations have been brought into the case. The news programme said U.N. officials, suspecting corruption, have alerted auditors at the headquarters in New York. Norway, which brokered secret talks that led to the autonomy deal, coordinates international aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

12 per cent of Israelis are poor — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nearly 650,000 Israelis or 12 per cent of the population last year earned less than \$300 a month last year, the official poverty line, according to a report published Tuesday. The National Insurance Institute found that another 1.15 million Israelis out of the total population of 5.3 million earn just slightly more than \$300 a month. In 1992, 616,000 Israelis were classified as poor, but with the population rising by 125,000 people, the figure for 1992 represents a slight percentage reduction.

Iran stepped up anti-narcotics drive

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran is stepping up efforts to curb widespread drug addiction and trafficking, including a measure under which addicts would be banished to an island in the Gulf, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. The broadcast said President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday chaired a meeting of the country's anti-narcotics headquarters, which called for new efforts to combat the scourge. The meeting stressed that better resources should be placed in the hands of the law enforcement agencies, which it said should be better deployed along the eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also in the meeting, "necessary decisions were taken to banish unruly and wandering addicts to Forur island" in the southern Gulf, the radio said. Four years ago, in response to public outrage over rampant drug addiction, which unofficial estimates said involved two million of Iran's 60 million population, the government imposed new laws that stipulate the death sentence for drug traffickers.

Quake jolts central Iranian province

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake jolted Iran's southern Fars province early Tuesday, the latest of some 800 tremors that have struck the region this year. The Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said the quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 3.6. It struck the Meimand and Firouzabad regions, 30 kilometres

south of the provincial capital of Shiraz, at 3:08 a.m. (23:38 GMT Monday). The agency said about 780 earthquakes, none major, have shaken the region since February, destroying 6,000 homes.

Iraqi, Sri Lankan refugees picked up

KARLSKRONA (AFP) — Swedish coast guard officers on Tuesday picked up 41 Iraqi and Sri Lankan refugees drifting aboard three lifeboats in the Baltic Sea, officials said. They said the refugees — 28 Iraqis and 13 Sri Lankans — included women and children and appeared in good health. They were apparently on board their lifeboats only a few hours before a Russian vessel detected them near the island of Utklippan. Some 1,000 refugees trying to enter Sweden illegally have been detected in the Baltic Sea since September 1992, most of them on board lifeboats or hidden on freighters.

Iran Air, KLM agree to increase flights

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Air and the Dutch flag-carrier, KLM, have agreed to increase flights to each other's capitals next year, the Iranian news agency reported Tuesday. The agency said the agreement was reached Monday in a meeting with KLM head Peter Bouw and the managing director of Iran Air, Hassan Shafii. The deal was part of an overall agreement to boost cooperation between the two airlines, IRNA said.

100 lashes, prison for rapist/robber

DUBAI (AFP) — A Bahraini man found guilty of raping and robbing tourists was condemned by a court in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates to 100 lashes and ten years in prison, a newspaper reported here Tuesday. The unemployed 23-year-old, who was not identified, was a persistent offender who specialised in attacking tourists. Gulf News said. He was arrested after his three most recent victims — two Russian women and an Ethiopian — reported him to police. The Russian women said the man beat and raped them, stole cash and jewellery and abandoned them in the desert. The Ethiopian woman said she was robbed. All three had to walk for hours through the desert to raise the alarm after the attacks.

Wolf attacks Bangladeshi guards in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A rabid wolf attacked six Bangladeshi guards and killed a small herd of sheep in Doha, north of Kuwait City, before it was caught two days later by security forces, officials said Tuesday. The six guards, who were all injured in the attack, were rushed to an infectious disease hospital by passers-by who heard their cries for help. The wolf roamed into the residential area from a desert region nearby.

Polish expert wounded in South Lebanon

TYRE (AP) — A Polish demolition expert was wounded when his truck drove over an explosive charge in South Lebanon, a United Nations spokesman said Tuesday. Timur Goksel said Sergeant Pacholar Eugeniusz was on his way Monday to blow up old mines and ammunition left over from Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. His truck struck the charge south of the village of Hinniyeh near Lebanon's southernmost port city of Tyre.